BLACK LAGOON 14

STORY & ART BY
REI HIROE

PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT

004

STORY & ART BY
REI HIROE

BLACK LAGOON

Crew of the Black Lagoon

Dutch

SKIPPER OF THE OF THE *BLACK LAGOON* AND LEADER OF THE CREW. DUTCH STAYS COOL NO MATTER HOW BAD THINGS GET. HIS BACKGROUND INCLUDES MILITARY SERVICE, INCLUDING A TOUR IN VIETNAM.

Benny

THE MAN IN CHARGE OF THE HIGH-TECH ELECTRONICS ONBOARD THE *BLACK LAGOON*. BENNY ESCAPED FROM THE U.S. AND IS ON THE RUN FROM BOTH THE FBI AND THE MAFIA.

Rock

A FORMER JAPANESE *SALARYMAN*, WHOSE REAL NAME IS ROKURŌ OKAJIMA. ABANDONED BY HIS COMPANY AFTER THE CREW OF THE *BLACK LAGOON* ABDUCTED HIM, ROCK LATER JOINED HIS CAPTORS.

Revy

THE *BLACK LAGOON'S* TOP GUNSLINGER, NICKNAMED "TWO HAND." HER FOUL MOUTH AND EXTREMELY SHORT FUSE USUALLY GET HER IN LOTS OF TROUBLE.

STORY

Rock, formerly known as Rokurô Okajima, was a faceless employee at a large Japanese company. On a business trip he was abducted and held for ransom by the crew of the Black Lagoon. Shocked and angered when his company callously threw him to the wolves in order to save their own skins, Rock decided to change course in life and joined the crew of the *Black Lagoon*.

With a briefcase full of documents detailing a terrorist plot planned by militant extremists, the crew of the *Black Lagoon* races to make delivery at a U.S. military base in the Philippines. The terrorists, led by Takenaka and Ibraha, now pursue Rock, Revy, the beautiful and deadly assassin Shenhua, and the crazed getaway driver Leigharch through the jungle in a wild run-and-gun chase!

PERSONALLY, I LIKE BEING ON THE FIRING LINE, BUT...
...I'VE GOT TO WORRY ABOUT THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT COMES WITH THE POSITION I HOLD. ANNOYING, ISN'T IT?

Chang

Boss of the Roanapur branch of the Hong Kong Triad criminal gang.

Balalaika

Boss of the Thai branch of "Hotel Moscow," a noted Russian criminal gang. Balalaika once was a captain in the Red Army of the former Soviet Union.

Shenhua

Chinese bodyguard hired by Chang, nicknamed "Chinglish Gal" by Revy.

Takenaka

Following his experiences in the 1960's Japanese student protests, his faith in a worldwide workers revolution led him to leave Japan and become a terrorist in the Middle East.

Legarch

Getaway driver hired by Chang. A spaced-out junkie with incredible driving skills.

IF WE TAKE ONE FALSE STEP, OUR ENTIRE PLAN—TWO YEARS IN THE MAKING—WILL BE FOR NOTHING.
YOU ASK FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE, TAKENAKA.
THE FBI IS CLOSELY MONITORING OUR EVERY MOVE!

Ibraha

Muslim radical and terrorist. He joined a terrorist organization following the murder of his son in Beirut by Israeli forces.

BLACK LAGOON

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004

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HEY MR. CIA.

IT'S ME.

DON'T WORRY.

EVERY-THING'S ON TRACK.

AUTHOR

LAUTREC
BLONDES

CHAPTER 21 : GOAT, JIHAD, ROCK 'N' ROLL - PART VI

GIVE ME A RING ONCE YOU RECEIVE THE GOODS. I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER.

...ARE YOU KIDDING ME? NOW ABOUT THE MONEY...

...I DON'T TAKE AMERICAN EXPRESS.

GREAT BROTHER.

THEY SAY "CLEAR OUR BESMIRCHED NAME, BUT DO NOT STRIKE DOWN UPON THEM."

WHAT'S THE WORD FROM HONG KONG?

EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON A SUCCESSFUL DELIVERY.

GODSPEED TO THE TRANS-PORTER.

POFF

IN OTHER WORDS, "DON'T GET INTO A DIRECT CONFRONTATION," HUH? EASIER SAID THEN DONE...

VROOOO

RRR

NO TIME FOR THAT! THEY'RE CLOSING IN!!

WE CLEAN SLATE!

RRRR

ROCK PAPER-SCISSORS-AGAIN, OKAY?

BESIDES...

...AT THIS RANGE, YOUR BLADES WON'T REACH 'EM! LET ME HANDLE THIS!

VERY WELL...

I WATCH HOW FANCY YOU ARE.

FW

VRRR

WHM

THEY SHOOT VERY MUCH.

MUST WANT TO STOP US NOW, YES?

THE HELL WITH THAT. TIME I TURN THE HEAT UP ON 'EM.

DAK

DAK

OUTFLANK THEM!

COORDINATE YOUR FIRE!

VRM VRM VRM

VRM VRM

SH

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

KRON

WCHH

BOOM

VR

OH MY.

IMPRESSIVE. YOU WALK LIKE YOU TALK.

BAKOW!

BLADES AND BODY ARE LIMITLESS. BEST WEAPONS IN THIS WORLD.

BULLSHIT. BLADES CAN DULL AND CHIP.

TH

THIS'D BE MUCH EASIER IF I HAD AN ANTI-TANK ROCKET OR A MACHINE GUN.

MP

FOOL. EVEN CANNONS WILL RUN OUT OF BULLETS.

OH MY GOD!

IT'S... BARBARELLA! WITH A PEACE PROTEST SIGN...*NAKED ?!*

KIK

YOU SCREWY UP HERE.

LEAVE DOG CATCHING TO DOGCATCHERS. BAD GUYS STAY BAD GUYS.

I'D LOVE TO HAVE SOME NUKES TOO, BUT ONLY STINKING POLITICIANS GET THOSE.

IF WE HAD SOME, WE'D CLEAN THE WORLD UP RIGHT QUICK.

TRY ONE OF THESE. IT'LL HELP YOU RELAX.

YEAH, WHAT-EVER.

HEY ROCK!

SHE

F

S

S

S

WHAT BRAND IS IT?

THIS CIGARETTE TASTES...

...DIFFERENT.

VOOO

SHUT UP!

ALL UNITS, CHARGE AHEAD!!

IBRAHA!!

WE'RE ALMOST AT THE DMZ! IF WE KEEP GOING, YOU'LL GET ALL YOUR MEN KILLED!

IBRAHA...

GET IT THROUGH YOUR HEAD.

WE HAVE WORK TO DO.

THAT MEANS THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE MUST STAND OUR GROUND!

AND THIS IS ONE OF THEM!

OUR WORK...

...IS NOT SOME *JOB*, IS IT TAKENAKA?! IT'S OUR LIFE!

SO, ROCK.

FEELING A LITTLE BETTER NOW?

SH CH AK!

WE AT DMZ. WE SHOULD SEE CAMP SOON.

YOU KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM IS...?

THE PROBLEM'S ME...WITH HOW I KEEP RUNNING AWAY FROM THINGS...

AHHH

WEEEELL.

OH NO. YOU NEED RIGHT MENTAL STATE FOR GOOD TRIP.

DAMN, I BLEW THAT ONE.

NEVER THOUGHT AN OPTIMIST LIKE HIM WOULD GET ALL BUMMED OUT.

I'VE BEEN RUNNING AWAY FROM THINGS I DIDN'T WANNA DO SINCE KINDER-GARTEN...

CRAAAAP... I'M SOOOO SCREWED...

OOOHHH... MAAANNN...

OH!

HIS TRIP GOING BAD, YES.

COME TO THINK OF IT, ALL I DID WAS LAY OUT LAME OLD EXCUSES... YOU KNOW...

...THERE I AM, TALKING WITH THE GUY LIKE I WAS SOME BIG SHOT. I COULDN'T HELP IT...

UGH...

NOT THIS SHIT AGAIN.

SKWIK

NOW WHAT?

HOLY SHIT!!

LOOK AT THIS!!

PLAYBOY PLAYMATES !!

IT'S THE INVASION OF THE PLAYMATE PLATOON!!

KRASH

THERE'S LIKE A HUNDRED OF 'EM! FROM EVERY ISSUE SINCE 1990!

BUNKER 3, THIS IS HQ. INBOUND VEHICLE IS FRIENDLY. HOLD YOUR FIRE!

RO

HQ, COME IN! UNIDENTIFIED VEHICLE HAS PENETRATED OUR PERIMETER!

REQUEST PERMISSION TO FIRE!!

SHA

ALL BUNKER AND SECURITY PERSONNEL!! THAT VEHICLE IS *NOT* HOSTILE, I REPEAT, *NOT* HOSTILE!

HOLD YOUR FIRE!! HOLD YOUR FIRE!!

GRRRRR

TAKENAKA!!

YOU WANT TO LOSE YOUR COMRADES, YOUR BASE, AND ALL OUR PLANS AS WELL?

LISTEN TO ME IBRAHA.

LET IT GO.

WE'VE LOST THIS ONE.

GRAB

YOUR SON'S NOT COMING BACK.

NOTHING YOU DO WILL BRING HIM BACK. YOU KNOW THAT.

I'LL MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND WHAT IT WAS LIKE IN THAT RED CROSS CAMP IN BEIRUT IN 1987. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE!!

...IN JERUSALEM *AND* THE BASTARDS THAT PROTECT THEM.

WE ARE THIS CLOSE...*THIS* CLOSE TO GETTING REVENGE ON THOSE FILTHY DOGS...

...
TAKENAKA
...

BELAY THAT ORDER!! DO NOT PROCEED!

IBRAHA! DON'T BETRAY OUR CAUSE OVER THE MISSION!

WHOP!

CONTINUE PURSUIT! STORM THE CAMP!

YOU FIGHT FOR THE CAUSE AND EVERYONE ELSE THAT HAS DIED FOR IT!! JUST LIKE ME!

KTK

K

K

BETRAY THE CAUSE?!

TAKENAKA!

CHAK

THAT'S WHY YOU CAME TO BEKKA VALLEY, ISN'T IT?!

ANSWER ME, TAKE-

COMMANDER!

YOUR ORDERS, SIR!!

BANG

RRRR

YES SIR.

WE WILL REGROUP AT THE SECONDARY RALLY POINT.

DO NOT RETURN TO CAMP.

...

ALL UNITS...

230Hz
058.614

IT SEEMS...

...NEITHER OF US CAN TAKE OUR EYES OFF THE PAST.

I SUPPOSE WE WON'T GET VERY FAR UNTIL WE STOP DOING THAT.

BUT THEN AGAIN, WE COULDN'T STAND OUR GROUND IF WE DID, COULD WE?

IBRAHA... I'M SORRY THIS WAS SUCH A RAW DEAL...

BUT YOU WERE A GOOD FRIEND... A REAL COMRADE.

THERE'S NOT MUCH POINT IN SAYING THIS NOW.

BUT YOU KNOW SOME-THING?

U.S. MARINE

THUP

THUP

SO WHERE'RE OUR ERRAND BOYS?

ARE THEY HERE?!

THUP

WHIP

YOU'RE LATE...

...MR. SPOOK!

VRR VRR VRR

SO WHAT'VE YOU GOT?

WHERE'S THIS THING THAT'S SUPPOSED TO GIVE ME A TEN-FOOT HARD-ON?

WE'RE BUSY DOWN AT LANGLEY THESE DAYS.

LOTTA ASSHOLES TRYING TO SHIT ON FREEDOM AND JUSTICE AND ALL THAT.

STAY COOL, ROCK.

REVY! WE'RE SCREWED!

WHAT?!

OH NO...THE BRIEF-CASE!

ZHP

SHFL

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MS. HARRY HOUDINI REACHES INTO HER MAGIC VASE HERE AND...

WE DON'T HAVE IT?!

什么?!
WHAT?!

PRESTO.

ALA

AP

YOU KNOW. BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY.

CAME IN HANDY, DIDN'T IT?

REVY...

YOU HAD THE GOODS? ALL THIS TIME?!

What then?!

DRIP

YEAH, THESE ARE THE DOCS. BUT...

...NEXT TIME, TRY DELIVERING THEM IN BETTER CONDITION. OUR BOSS WON'T LIKE THIS.

HOW DO THEY LOOK, BREND?

NO SHIT, SHERLOCK. OR ELSE WE WOULDN'T HAVE DRIVEN OFF.

WHRR

VRRR

VRRR

VRRR

EVER WONDER HOW THE WARDEN AT BUFFALO HILL AND THE GUYS AT THE NYPD 27TH PRECINCT STATION HOUSE...

...WOULD REACT IF THEY FOUND OUT WHAT YOU DO FOR A LIVING NOW?

GOOD WORK GUYS. JUST ONE MORE THING...

...MS. REBECCA...

WHP

DON'T GET ME WRONG.

WHP

I JUST WANTED TO MENTION THAT IN CASE WE HAVE ANOTHER JOB COME UP.

SEE YOU AROUND.

WE'RE ALL ABOUT DEFEATING THE ENEMIES OF THE UNITED STATES. WE DON'T GET PAID TO GO AFTER ESCAPED FELONS.

WHP

WHP

THP THP

REVY!!

OUR JOB FINISHED FINALLY, YES?

QUITE A RUN.

THANKS, REVY. I MEAN IT.

UM... I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO THANK YOU YET.

AIYAA...

FWAAAHHH

KNOCK IT OFF. JEEZ...

DON'T GET HUNG UP ON IT.

BOOFF

'CAUSE GUESS WHAT, ROCK...

IRK IRK

...THIS AIN'T NO FEEL-GOOD BUDDY MOVIE, YOU FUCKHEAD.

I WON'T EVER PUT MY ASS ON THE LINE FOR YOU LIKE THAT AGAIN, YOU GOT THAT?!

THE BILL FOR THIS IS COMING OUT OF YOUR PAYCHECK.

NEXT TIME YOU FUCK UP LIKE THIS, THE ONLY HELP YOU'LL GET IS FROM THE ALMIGHTY!

JEEZ...

I'M SURE I'LL BE HOME BY NOON TOMORROW. I'LL SEE YOU THERE.

YEAH...

I'LL CONTACT THE SHEIKH MYSELF.

HOW WAS YOUR TRIP?

AH...! YES, I REMEMBER. THE FAMILY-MAN GOING TO PHUKET.

HELLO THERE! MR. YASUO DAICHI LOOK-ALIKE!

THINGS COULDN'T HAVE GONE WORSE.

THE DEAL FELL THROUGH. PLUS I HURT MY BACK.

OH WE HAD A WONDERFUL TIME.

AND YOU?

FANCY MEETING YOU HERE!!

IT SURE SUCKS TO GROW OLD. I TELL YA.

I ENDED UP FALLING OUT WITH A CLOSE FRIEND OVER A DISAGREEMENT.

WE KEPT FIGHTING ABOUT HAVING YOUNG KIDS DO THINGS WE COULDN'T DO OURSELVES.

TKLIK

AIN'T THAT THE TRUTH.

...EVEN SO...

AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALIVE, THERE'S ALWAYS A NEXT TIME.

...YOU CAN TRY AGAIN, ANOTHER TIME.

WHAT'S YOUR OCCUPATION ?

SO, MISTER!

I USED TO WONDER ABOUT THAT, BUT NOT ANYMORE.

MY OCCUPATION ?

...WELL.

MY JOB DESCRIPTION IS...

...PUBLIC ENEMY.

THAT MOTHERBOARD I MENTIONED. ANY LUCK FINDING IT?

THE ONE MADE BY PEITAI ELECTRONICS?

KRK

IS THAT YOU, ROCK?

Chapter 22: Fujiyama Gangsta Paradise - Part I

I'LL TRY TOMORROW.

MS. BALALAIKA ASKED ME TO ACCOMPANY HER TODAY.

I IMAGINE HAVING A FAMILIAR FACE FOR AN INTERPRETER HELPS HER WORRY LESS.

WE GOT NO PLANS FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. HAVE A GOOD TIME.

JONNY JACK

THANKS BENNY.

...

YEAH. HEY, BENNY.

...WELL...

...I NEVER THOUGHT I'D RETURN TO JAPAN LIKE THIS.

Chapter 22: Fujiyama Gangsta Paradise - Part I

SHE'S COMPLAINING A LOT.

JUST YESTERDAY, SHE WAS BITCHING ABOUT BEING STUCK WITH A TOKAREV.

Tok Tok

AIN'T YOU THE LADIES MAN. SHE WENT ALONG 'CAUSE SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

...UM, WELL...I GOTTA RUN.

I'LL CALL YOU BACK LATER.

YEAH, I SUPPOSE...

HOW'S REVY DOING?

カード公衆電話

COMPARED TO NEW YORK, THIS IS NOTHING.

BUT STILL, I GOTTA ADMIT I LIKE IT.

...

IT'S STARTING TO SNOW.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE SEEN SNOW COMING DOWN.

BUNCHA GUYS TRIED HITTING ON ME ALREADY.

BUT AS SOON AS I SAY SOMETHING, THEY GET ALL DORKY AND GO, "GAIJIN, GAIJIN." PISSERS!

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT JAPAN?

SHK

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET FACE TO FACE.

I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR TRAVELING SUCH A GREAT DISTANCE TO BE HERE. THESE ARE THE MEMBERS OF OUR KUMI.

I...I BELIEVE I HAVEN'T LEARNED YOUR NAME YET, SO IF...

WE'VE BEEN EAGER TO SET UP A BASE IN TOKYO FOR SOME TIME. I APPRECIATE YOUR ASSIS-TANCE.

I'VE BEEN BRIEFED BY LAPTEV.

JUST *BALALAIKA* IS FINE.

YOU SEE, THE CHINESE ARE GRABBING UP MAJOR TURF SPOTS IN KABUKICHO THESE DAYS.

YOUR PAL MR. LAPTEV... HIS WAS ONE OF THE GROUPS THAT GOT PUSHED OUT THANKS TO THEM. SO WE, THE WASHIMINE GUMI, THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD HELP.

WE GOT NOTHING TO FEAR, ONCE YOUR ORGANIZATION AND OUR *KUMI* SHAKE HANDS.

AS YOU KNOW, THE KANTO MEDIATION COUNCIL IS FIXATED ON GETTING RID OF FOREIGNERS.

WE TAKE AN OATH OF LOYALTY...

...BUT YA CAN ONLY STRETCH IT SO FAR.

WE PAY VERY HEFTY TRIBUTES TO OUR PARENT GROUP, THE KOSA KAI.

I'D LIKE TO THINK WE WALKED THE EXTRA MILE TO FULFILL OUR DUTY TO THE COUNCIL. BUT THEY'RE STILL LEAVIN' US OUT IN THE COLD.

SKRK

BUT...

...ISN'T THE WASHIMINE GUMI A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL?

...WHILE WE ADD ANOTHER LIGHT TO THIS CITY.

OUR GOALS ARE MUTUALLY COMPATIBLE, MR. BANDO.

YOU EXPAND YOUR REACH WITH OUR HELP...

THIS IS GONNA BE GOOD FOR OUR FAMILY, GOOD FOR OUR REPUTATION.

...I HEAR YOU'RE QUITE *ADEPT.* EVEN AMONG THE OTHER RUSSIANS.

I THINK WE'RE GONNA GET ALONG JUST FINE.

WITH YOU HOLDING DOWN THE KOSA KAI, THE COUNCIL'LL SOON START SEEING THINGS OUR WAY.

KCHK

THEY CAN'T BE COMPARED TO ANYTHING YOU HAVE HERE.

WE ARE A MILITARY FORCE, MR. BANDO. NOW...

...LET ME SHOW YOU.

PI BI BI

YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT OUR CAPABILITIES?

Это я.
(IT'S ME.)

Все на месте?
(ARE YOU IN POSITION?)

Хорошо.
(GOOD.)

Отлично.
(OUTSTANDING.)

Приступайте.
(EXECUTE.)

KCHN

KLIK

BU

OH

OH

OH

FUCK

DUK

Hart

3F

YES INDEED.

FOR STARTERS, WE'VE BLOWN UP ONE OF KOSA KAI'S CLUBS.

...

THAT WAS YOUR PEOPLE?

BLOWN UP?!

HOLY SHIT, ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR FUCKING MINDS?!

INTIMIDATION WITH HANDGUNS AMOUNTS TO NOTHING. WE MAKE OUR STRENGTH VERY CLEAR WITH OUR FIRST STRIKE.

THIS IS HOW HOTEL MOSCOW MAKES A SHOW OF FORCE.

...WE ARE GOING TO...

... DECIMATE ANYTHING THAT STANDS IN OUR WAY.

ISN'T THAT WHY...

...WE ARE HERE?

...

HEH! HEH HEH...

I'M IMPRESSED, MS. BALALAIKA.

SOUNDS JUST FINE TO ME.

SOME FIREWORKS TO KICK OFF THE WASHIMINE GUMI'S ALL-OUT BRAWL, HUH?

Explosion in Kabukicho, Metropolitan Polic

I GET BACK AFTER BEING AWAY FOR SO LONG, THEN THIS...

IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK HER NOT TO TURN JAPAN INTO A WAR ZONE?

OH MAN, DID YOU SEE THAT?

I BET THOSE YAKUZA GUYS HAD TO CHANGE THEIR SHORTS.

MS. BALALAIKA'S IDEA OF A GOOD TIME IS ALL-OUT WARFARE. FUCKING WOULD ONLY MAKE HER BORED.

THERE'S SOMETHING HORRIBLY WRONG ABOUT THAT.

SKWEE

THE LADY WAS MIGHTY HAPPY ALL RIGHT.

WITH ROANAPUR SO QUIET THESE DAYS, I THINK SHE WAS HURTING FOR SOME ACTION.

HEY, ROCK.

WHAT'S THAT?

HMM?

...EH?

SHE'S A WAR-A-HOLIC, THAT'S WHAT.

A FEW OF HER SCREWS GOT LOOSE WHILE SHE WAS IN AFGHANISTAN.

A CARNIVAL HUH?

SO WHERE'S THE FERRIS WHEEL?

OH THAT?

..IT'S AN *ENNICHI*. COMMON SIGHT AT NEW YEAR'S IN JAPAN.

LOOKS INTERESTING. I WANNA PEEK.

YO DRIVER, STOP HERE.

THOK THOK

THEY DON'T SET THOSE UP FOR THESE THINGS...

...REVY?

THAT'S NUMBER THREE.

BOF

ZCHAK

THAT'S ME, GUNSLINGER REBECCA.

YES!

TWOZZK

WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?

GIVE ME A GUN, I'M SECOND TO NONE.

TWO HAND AT HER FULL GLORY, HUH?

HEH HEH.

YOU BET.

TOO BAD I DON'T HAVE MY CUTLASSES WITH ME.

I'D PUT THIS PLACE OUT OF BUSINESS IN THREE SECONDS.

NUMBER FOUR.

THEN AGAIN, THERE AIN'T NO COUNTRY AS UNFRIENDLY TO GUNFIGHTS AS THIS ONE.

BRIBES DON'T WORK ON COPS IN JAPAN LIKE THEY DO IN ROANAPUR.

NO USE GETTIN' THROWN IN THE SLAMMER FOR-

KRK

...

GETTIN' SENTIMENTAL ?

ME? ABOUT WHAT?

YOU KNOW PEOPLE HERE... YOU GOT FOLKS HERE, RIGHT? YOU DIDN'T SPAWN OUT OF SOME HOLE IN THE GROUND.

ABOUT WHAT? YOU DICKIN' WITH ME?

THIS IS YOUR HOME.

SEEING YOU GETTING ALL INTRO-SPECTIVE AND SHIT.

CHK

NEVER MIND.

JUST WONDERIN', THAT'S ALL.

...

I THOUGHT NOSEY PEOPLE DIDN'T LAST IN THIS BUSINESS.

SEEMS LIKE IT WAS ONLY YESTER-DAY...

...WHEN YOU HELD ME AT GUNPOINT ON THAT SHIP.

THAT WAS A YEAR AGO. IT WENT BY FAST...

TOK

...AND YET I GET THE FEELING I'M A STRANGER IN A FOREIGN LAND.

I WONDER WHY BUT...

...HERE I AM, BACK HOME IN A PLACE I KNOW ALL ABOUT...

THE THING IS...

...I REALLY DON'T GET ALONG WITH MY FAMILY.

MY FAMILY REALLY DOESN'T EXPECT MUCH OUT OF ME.

SO MAYBE THEY DON'T EVEN CARE ABOUT ME ANYMORE.

MY OLDER BROTHER HAD IT TOGETHER AND GOT HIMSELF A GOVERNMENT JOB...

...BUT I NEEDED TWO TRIES TO GET INTO COLLEGE AND ENDED UP WITH A REGULAR JOB.

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE.

YOU STAY IN THIS BUSINESS, PRETTY SOON YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE 'EM ANYMORE.

AND BESIDES...

...

DROP THEM A NOTE AT LEAST.

YOU AIN'T BEEN ARRESTED YET.

YEAH, SURE.

BUT YOUR FOLKS'RE STILL ALIVE, RIGHT?

...THEY BROUGHT YOU UP ALL LEGIT.

NO STEALING, NO KILLING ALONG THE WAY.

AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, THAT'S A DAMN GOOD ORDINARY FAMILY.

DON'T GET ME WRONG.

I'M JUST SAYIN' GO HAVE A VISIT. THAT'S ALL.

...

MY FAMILY'S SCREWED UP PLENTY, TRUST ME.

THE FACT THAT I CHOSE TO HITCH UP WITH YOU GUYS SHOULD TELL YOU SOMETHING.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, REVY?

HEY, HEY!

THUNK

SHIT.

THAT DOLL'S LOADED WITH A WEIGHT.

THAK

THERE!

NOW I GOT THE HIGH SCORE. UMM...

HEY OLD MAN! GIVE ME THAT PRIZE. THAT VIDEO GAME OVER THERE.

KCHK

PO

K

WHAT DID HE SAY?

SAYS YOU CHEATED. SAID YOU KNOCKED IT OVER WITH THE GUN.

景品

1等 —
2等
3等
残

SHF
SHF

SHE SAYS TO HAND OVER THE GAME SINCE SHE GOT FIRST PRIZE.

WHAT THE FUCK?! BULLSHIT! I'M NOT GONNA TAKE THIS CRAP!

THEY'RE STUFFED FULL OF LEAD ANYWAY!

WHAT THE FUCK?!

UH-UH. NO WAY. SHE TAPPED THAT DOLL WITH THE BARREL. NO CHEATING.

RUSTLE

BACK OFF, REVY!

JUST LET IT GO!

KICK YER ASS

SHIT!

WHATCHUR PROBLEM ANYWAY?!

WHAT WAS THAT?! YOU JUST CUSSED AT ME, DIDN'T YOU?!

THIS IS A GODDAMNED RIP-OFF ANYWAY! IT'S A STINKING SCAM!!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD YOU SAY! SPEAK JAPANESE, DAMMIT!

IT'S STILL
MATSUNOUCHI,
THE FIRST DAYS
OF THE NEW
YEAR.

LET'S ALL
JUST MAKE
NICE AND
ENJOY
OURSELVES.

MIND YOUR OWN FUCKING
BUSINESS, DICKWEED.

WHO THE
FUCK ARE YOU?

...PLEASE...

EXCUSE
ME...

...MR.
GINJI.

PLEASE...

KINDLY STILL YOUR RAGE.

LOOK, REVY, HE SAYS YOU'LL GET YOUR MONEY BACK.

LET'S GO. DON'T MAKE A SCENE.

HEY ROCK, BABY. WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

YO JUMBO. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ENGLISH?

Chapter 23: Fujiyama Gangsta Paradise - Part II

TAKAMACHI FESTIVAL SEASON IS SHORT. WE GOTTA MAKE THE BEST OF IT.

THIS SHOULD BE AN ENJOYABLE TIME FOR EVERYONE. SO PLEASE, LET BYGONES BE BYGONES. IF YOU GOTTA GRUDGE, DROP IT.

TALK

PLEASE, MISS...

I'M JUST ASKIN' YOU TO BE REASONABLE, 'AT'S ALL.

NO WAY.

SHIP

大判焼

!

LET IT GO, REVY!

DOWN

HEY!

UMM...

SWEET SAKE...

...ANYONE?

WHISK

UH, WOULDN'T IT BE NICE...

...TO HAVE SOME HOT *AMAZAKE* IN THIS COLD WEATHER?

...SOMETHING TO SIP WHILE TALKING, PERHAPS?

WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU?

MISS...

LET'S GO. RIGHT NOW.

I SECOND THAT SUGGESTION.

IT'S COLD AND I HATE FIGHTING.

SO...

...WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

C'MON, MIGHT AS WELL.

BESIDES, IF WE STAY OUTSIDE, WE CALL ATTENTION TO OURSELVES.

MAKING A BIG SCENE DOESN'T GET US ANYWHERE.

FORGET IT. I'M NOT IN THE MOOD ANYMORE.

LOST THE BUZZ.

OH, REALLY?

THANK GOD.

OH YES.

I'M JUST VERY GLAD...

...THINGS CALMED DOWN.

I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH.

I SURE DIDN'T WANT A BRAWL TO BREAK OUT AT AN *ENNICHI*.

UHH...

OH MY!

P-P-P-PLEASE EXCUSE ME.

I'M SORRY. OH PLEASE, GO AHEAD!

WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO SAY? I'M SO SORRY!

OH, WELL, UH...

...ARE YOU WITH THE *TEKIYA** AS WELL? YOU LOOK LIKE A SCHOOL GIRL.

*STREET STALL VENDORS, OFTEN WITH LINKS TO THE YAKUZA.

HE WAS A *TEKIYA* OPERATOR.

THAT MAN, MR. GINJI...

HE WAS MY FATHER'S... PROTÉGÉ... YOU MIGHT SAY.

...

ACTUALLY, YOU'RE RIGHT ON BOTH COUNTS.

MY FAMILY... MY FATHER.

BEFORE LONG, HE BECAME THE *TAKAMACHI'S* PEACEKEEPER.

...SINCE HE'S SO... SO BIG, PHYSICALLY AND SUCH.

IF ANY TROUBLE BREAKS OUT AT THE *TAKAMACHI*, PEOPLE GO TO MR. GINJI...

AND THEN THAT DISTURBANCE BROKE OUT.

UH-HUH. I SEE.

I HAVE TO SAY I WAS SOMEWHAT STARTLED.

I WAS ON MY WAY BACK FROM SCHOOL TO SEE IF I COULD HELP CLOSE UP SHOP.

YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE HER. SHE'S GOT A REAL SHORT TEMPER.

OH, UH... YOUR COMPAN-ION...

...SHE'S NOT JAPANESE?

I'M JUST GLAD THINGS DIDN'T GET OUT OF HAND.

ACTUALLY, NO. SHE'S CHINESE-AMERICAN.

UH, HOW DO I PUT THIS SIMPLY...

SHE'S MY CO-WORKER. I WAS HIRED BY SOME RUSSIAN FOLKS TO BE THEIR INTERPRETER.

BMP BMP BMP

WOW...

THAT'S WONDERFUL. SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL-SOUNDING JOB.

IT'S NOT AT ALL AS GLAMOROUS AS YOU MIGHT THINK. I WORK FOR A SMALL OUTFIT AND THE EVERYDAY WORK IS ROUGH.

REAL BACK-BREAKING STUFF. PLUS IT'S DANGEROUS.

...GODDAMNED JACKOFF.

JUST LOOK AT HIM GETTING ALL DOPEY.

WHAT'S UP WITH HIM...?

...DANGEROUS Z

WHAT?

OH YEAH! YOU BET! WELL, UH, HOW DO I SAY THIS...

...HUMPH.

SOMETHING'S BEEN BOTHERING ME...

ビール 1缶 600円

焼き鳥

おでん 1ヶ 100円

HEY LADY...

...

WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT, ASSHOLE?

YOU...

... AIN'T A CIVILIAN, ARE YA?

THEM EYES BELONG TO A BADASS DOG.

THOSE EYES...

THAT LOOK IN YOUR EYES SAYS SOMETHIN' MEAN.

YOU REEK OF THE STENCH OF BLOOD AND GUTS.

I KNOW THAT STENCH WELL.

...I HAVE NO FUCKING IDEA WHAT YOU JUST SAID.

BUT I CAN TELL, YOU'RE JUST LIKE ME.

FWOOOO

MISS...

THESE LOW TEMPERATURES AREN'T GOOD FOR YOU.

WE SHOULD—

OH YES!

CERTAINLY!

TOSS

WELL...

IT'S GETTING VERY COLD NOW.

OH, WAIT!

COULD YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME?

RIGHT.

WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY THEN.

OKAY, GOOD-BYE.

OF COURSE.

MY NAME IS YUKIO. *YUKI* LIKE IN "SNOW" AND O AS IN THE STRAPS FOR A GETA SANDAL.

HAVE A PLEASANT EVENING.

TKLK

NO, SIR.

I'M FINE, SIR.

BEST NOT SKIP BREAK-FAST. THINK OF YOUR HEALTH. NOW THEN...

...SERGEANT. HOW IS THE SITUATION PROGRESSING AT THIS TIME?

THEN SOME TOAST PERHAPS?

SIR, SHOULD I HAVE THEM BRING YOU SOME RUSSIAN TEA?

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME, SERGEANT?

DON'T BOTHER.

I'D RATHER NOT WASTE TIME.

WE'VE TAKEN OUT TWO AND WE SUFFERED NO CASUALITIES.

WE FULLY STERILIZED EACH SCENE TO ELIMINATE ANY INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE.

YES, SIR.

BEGINNING LAST NIGHT, WE SHIFTED TARGETS TO THEIR UNDER-GROUND CASINOS.

SPASIBO, SERGEANT.

AND THE INDEPENDENT STRIKE TEAM?

AT 0230 HOURS, THEY HIT THE OFFICES OF THE KOSA KAI.

TWELVE CONFIRMED KILLS.

AKIRA

CHK

BLAM

WE SUFFERED NO CASUALTIES AND NO DAMAGED EQUIPMENT.

AT 0237 HOURS, WE VACATED THE PREMISES.

I'VE HAD MEMBERS OF THE WASHIMINE GUMI MAKE DETAILED TRANSCRIPTS OF ALL POLICE RADIO DISPATCHES.

WE ARE AWAITING ROCK'S TRANSLATION OF THE CONTENTS, BUT HE IS AWAY ON MINOR BUSINESS.

OUR LIVES DEPEND ON THE ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY OF INTELLIGENCE.

EXPEDITE THE TRANSLATION PROCESS.

AT 0305 HOURS, THEY STARTED SEALING OFF ALL THE AREAS WE WERE OPERATING IN.

THEY CONTINUE TO BE AT EMERGENCY HIGH ALERT STATUS AT THIS TIME.

ANY INTERVENTION BY THE POLICE?

KTIK

I CAN SEE WHY *VOR** SLEVININ REGARDS YOU SO HIGHLY.

YOU CATCH ON QUICKLY AND WORK FAST.

HUMPH-

IMPRESSIVE, BALALAIKA.

YOU ARE A DISGRACE TO THE *ORGANIZATSIYA*.

YOU CAN'T EVEN HOLD DOWN A SIMPLE PLEASURE SPOT LIKE THIS?

...

MAY I REMIND YOU, VASILY, THAT I'M HERE TO CLEAN UP THE MESS YOU MADE.

*FROM *VOR V ZAKONE*, LITERALLY, "THIEF IN LAW"-RUSSIAN CRIMINALS WHO FOLLOW A TRADITIONAL CODE OF BEHAVIOR.

HEY!

BACK OFF, BALALAIKA.

I'M A FULL-FLEDGED *VOR* OF THE *ORGANIZATSIYA* IN MOSCOW AS WELL.

WE WILL MEET AGAIN IN SIX HOURS.

THAT PLACE IS LIKE A TINDERBOX. I NEED TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH.

I JUST WANT TO GET THIS TAKEN CARE OF QUICKLY SO I CAN GO BACK TO ROANAPUR.

TMP

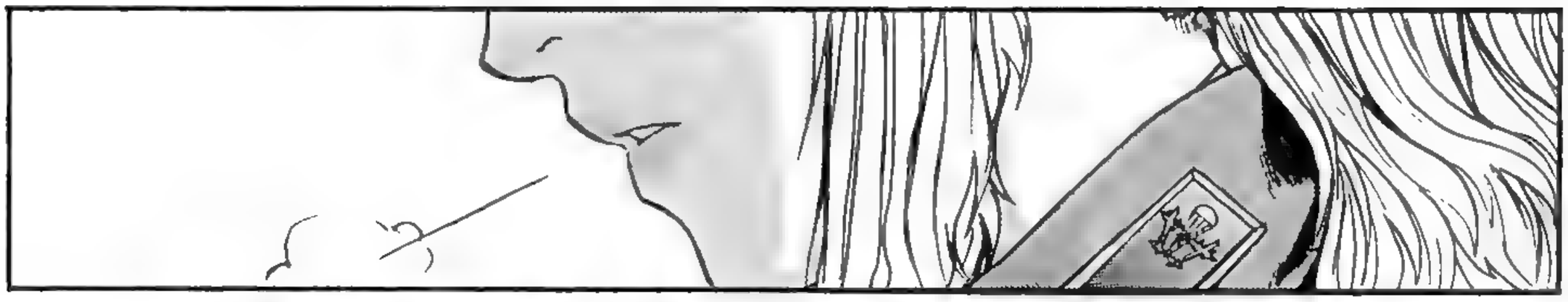
OH, I'M SO SORRY.

MY MEMORY IS WEAK WHEN IT COMES TO THOSE WHO BOUGHT THEIR WAY INTO THEIR POSITION.

PERHAPS I SHOULD JOT YOUR NAME DOWN ON A DOLLAR BILL.

BARK ALL YOU WANT...

...YOU WORTHLESS BITCH OF A SOLDIER.



FUCK

I WILL WARN YOU JUST THIS ONCE.
THERE ARE TWO THINGS IN THIS WORLD I CAN'T STAND.
ONE IS *BLIN* GONE COLD.
THE OTHER IS COWARDLY KGB SHITS.
GIK
JUST MAKE SURE TO KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN.
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO GET HIT BY A STRAY BULLET, WOULD YOU?
NEITHER DOES ANYONE ANY GOOD. DON'T YOU AGREE?

LITTLE GIN!

HOW'S BIZ?

...THERE A PROBLEM?

KASHIRA*...

MIND SOME COMPANY?

JUST CAME T'SEE YA.

NUTHIN' MORE, NUTHIN' LESS. HEY, EASE UP, KID.

*ALSO *WAKAGASHIRA*, UNDERBOSS OF A YAKUZA FAMILY

SO, LITTLE GIN...

LISTEN.

HOW MUCH LONGER ARE YOU PLANNIN' ON BEIN' SMALL TIME?

...

EH, WOULDN'T KIDS THESE DAYS...

...BE MORE INTO THEM FLASHY GAME WIDGETS?

I MEAN, 'STEAD A' CRAP LIKE THIS?

F

YEAH, WELL, THE SCRATCH YOU'RE TURNIN' OVER TO THE *KUMI* IS ALMOST *ROCK BOTTOM.*

YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT, LITTLE GIN?

WE'RE *TEKIYA.*

THIS IS WHAT *TEKIYA* DO.

NO? MUCH *MUCH* BETTER, DON'T YA THINK?

...

BETTER RACKET THAN PUSHIN' SMACK AND PIMPIN' GIRLS...

YOU SAYIN' I DO IT FOR KICKS?

YA THINK I LIKE THAT KINDA SHITTY BUSINESS?

HEY, LITTLE GIN.

EVER SINCE THE BOSS BOUGHT THE FARM. HELL, IT GOES BACK EVEN FURTHER.

OUR *KUMI'S* BEEN HURTIN'... HURTIN' A LONG TIME.

...

WITH THAT GONE, THERE'S NOTHIN' STOPPING THEM FROM WIPING US OUT.

THE TRIBUTE WE HAND OVER IS A PITTANCE. KOSA KAI LEFT US ALONE SO FAR FOR ONLY ONE REASON.

BECAUSE OUR OLD MAN AND THEIR FORMER BOSS SWORE AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD.

'STEAD THEY KEEP PUSHIN' TO PUT IN ONE A' THEIRS INSTEAD.

CAN'T HOLD IT OFF FOR MUCH LONGER.

THOSE BASTARDS GET A HARD-ON JUST THINKIN' ABOUT CRUSHIN' US.

WE BEEN WITHOUT AN *OYABUN** THREE YEARS NOW. STILL WON'T LET ANY OF US STEP UP TO THE POSITION.

*TOP BOSS OF A *YAKUZA* FAMILY.

TO THAT END, THIS *KUMI'S* GOTTA DO WHAT IT'S GOTTA DO.

AND IF THAT MEANS SELLING DOPE, GUNS, OR PUSSY, IT STILL DON'T MATTER.

YOU CAN'T MAKE A STAND WITHOUT HAVIN' SOMETHIN' T' STAND ON.

THAT'S WHY...

...NO MATTER WHAT COMES DOWN...WE GOTTA KEEP THE *KUMI'S* FAMILY CREST SAFE.

NO MATTER WHAT, YOU HEAR ME?

I OWE A BIG DEBT TO THE DEPARTED, JUST LIKE YOU.

HE TREATED ME REAL GENEROUS, CONSIDERING I DRIFTED DOWN FROM HIGHER UP.

...THE OLD MAN...

... NEVER SAID ANY SUCH THING.

FINE WORDS. BUT WHAT'S THE POINT WITHOUT A *KUMI* TO BELONG TO?

WITHOUT THE NAME AND FAMILY CREST, A MAN OF THE GOKUDO IS JUST ANOTHER SCHMUCK. THERE'S NO HONOR, ONLY SURVIVAL.

...YEAH. DIDN'T HE USED TO SAY...

... "WHAT A TERRIBLE SHAME IT IS FOR A MAN OF THE GOKUDO* TO TAKE UP SUCH DIRTY BUSINESS."

CLICK

LISTEN, LITTLE GIN...

*LITERALLY, "THE EXTREME PATH", THE LIFE OF A GANGSTER.

WORKIN' WITH THE RUSSIANS TO STRIKE AT OUR HIGHER-UPS.

THAT'S THE LOW-DOWN.

RIGHT NOW, I'M PUTTING TOGETHER ONE HELL OF A SCORE.

KASHIRA...

DID I JUST HEAR WHAT YOU SAID RIGHT?

YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT?

THOSE FUCKERS STARTED THIS, WANTING THEIR OWN PEOPLE RUBBED OUT.

NO POINT PULLIN' ANY PUNCHES NOW.

THEY GOT NO CODE OF HONOR OR ANY OF THAT SHIT.

THAT'S WHY WE GOTTA HAVE SOMEONE, ONE OF US, KEEP A LID ON THINGS.

BUT...

...THE RUSSIANS'RE ALWAYS GONNA BE RUSSIAN.

...ARE YOU TRYIN' TO SAY?

JUST WHAT THE HELL...

...I WANT YOU...

...TO CARRY THE *SHIRASAYA** ONCE AGAIN, 'AT'S WHAT.

ANY YAKUZA WITH HALF A BRAIN REMEMBERS THE WAKE OF TERROR LEFT BY...

...MANSLAYER GINJI.

WHATTAYA SAY...

...YOU TAKE UP *THAT* TITLE AGAIN?

*LITERALLY "WHITE SCABBARD", A JAPANESE SWORD WITH A PLAIN WOODEN HANDLE AND SCABBARD.

...

KASHIRA.

I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR...

...MAKING SURE THINGS GO SMOOTHLY FOR THE MISS, MONEY-WISE.

AND I UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU'RE COMIN' FROM WITH THIS DEAL.

BUT...

...ALL THIS SCHEMING YOU'RE DOIN'.

THERE'S NO *JING/** IN ANY OF IT.

THE REASON I CARRIED THE *SHIRASAYA* FOR THE OLD MAN WAS BECAUSE...

...THERE WAS *JING/* IN HIS STRUGGLES.

* HONOR AND HUMANITY

KASHIRA...

...ALL RIGHT.

TOO BAD.

I'LL SEE YA AROUND.

CH

YEAH, THEY DID.

WHAT ABOUT IT?

THESE RUSSIANS ....

THEY BROUGHT THEIR OWN INTERPRETER?

GUY WAS CLUELESS, I'LL TELL YA THAT MUCH.

STRAIGHT AS A RULER, YOU COULD SEE IT IN HIS FACE.

THIS CHUMP...

WHAT'S HE LIKE?

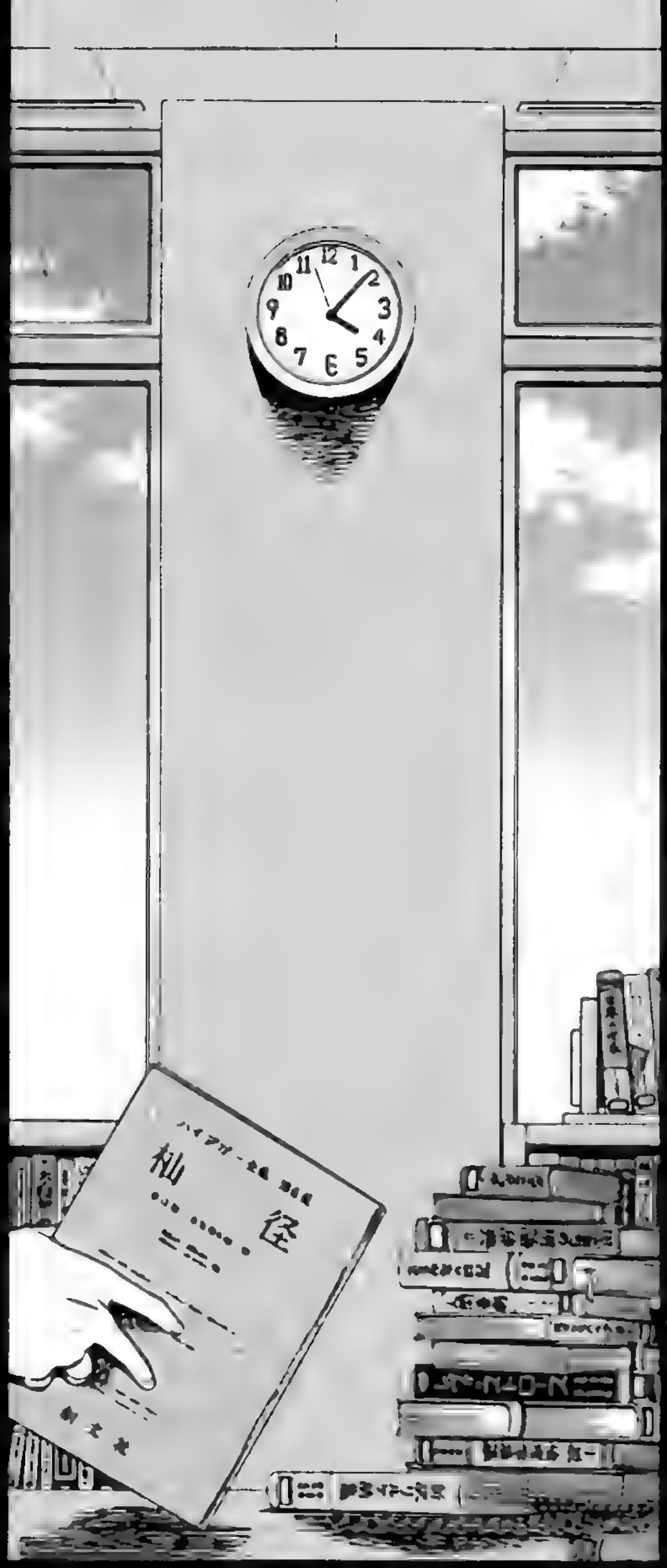
...HUH?

LOOKED LIKE A CIVILIAN, BUT HE WAS WITH A REAL TOUGH GAL...PRETTY FACE.

...IF HE EVER WENT ANYWHERE NEAR A CLIP JOINT...

...IT'D BE LIKE HE WAS BEGGIN'...

...TO GET TAKEN FOR EVERY YEN HE HAD...



Chapter 24: Fujiyama Gangsta Paradise - Part III

KLAK

OOPS...!

SENPAI*?

*JAPANESE FORM OF ADDRESS FOR A SOCIAL SENIOR OR SUPERIOR

YOU'RE BEYOND A FAST READER. YOU'RE LIKE A MACHINE.

WHAT KIND OF BOOKS ARE YOU READING?

OH, UM, RIGHT NOW, THIS ONE.

YES.

I SHOULD HAVE PUT THESE BACK.

OH...

HELLO MAKI.

OHMIGOD... WHAT A STACK.

SENPAI, HAVE YOU BEEN READING ALL THIS?

IT'S A BOOK BY MARTIN HEIDEGGER.

IT'S PHILOSOPHY, BUT I LIKE IT FOR ITS BOLD AND ENERGETIC WRITING.

I REMEMBER YOU MENTIONED HOW YOU ENJOY ANNE RICE.

No thanks

ALL I READ IS *TANBI* BOY'S ROMANCE AND CONTEMPO-RARY HORROR.

EEK. I'LL PASS.

WOW.

YOU CALL THAT EASY READING?

WELL LET ME SEE...

I SUPPOSE I ENJOY JURO KARA AND NATSUKI IKEZAWA AND SUCH...

SENPAI.

WHAT DO YOU READ FOR LIGHT STUFF?

GOSH, *SENPAI*. IT'S ONE WAY OR THE OTHER FOR YOU, ISN'T IT?

...HOW ABOUT ARISU ARISUGAWA?

OH HIM? YES, HE'S IN MY RANGE. JUST BARELY, THOUGH.

I'VE READ *BYE BYE, ANGEL.*

THEN HOW ABOUT...

...KIYOSHI KASAI'S WORK?

WHAT ABOUT MCCAMMON OR KING?

FLP FLP FLP

I DON'T CARE MUCH FOR PHILOSOPHICAL MUMBO JUMBO. JUST AS LONG AS KAKERU IS CUTE, THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT.

SENPAI, YOU DON'T GO FOR CONTEMPORARY HORROR STUFF?

I ENJOYED READING *SUMMER APOCALYPSE*.

...

WELL...

...I'M NOT AT ALL INTO HORROR STORIES.

IF YOU READ HUSSERL BEFORE-HAND, YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON HIS WRITINGS WILL CHANGE DRAMATICALLY.

I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU'D ENJOY STUFF LIKE WHAT POE WROTE.

HUH?

REALLY? THAT'S SURPRISING.

IT LEAVES ME FEELING TRAPPED...

...IN THE BLACKNESS AND THE LONESOME-NESS...

I'M NOT INTO...

...ANYTHING THAT MAKES ME DWELL ON THE NIGHT AND THE DARK.

I REALLY...

...CAN'T STAND NIGHTTIME.

ESPECIALLY THOSE NIGHTS WHEN THE SNOW IS BLOWING. THE SENSATION THAT IT WILL SUCK ME IN TERRIFIES ME.

OTHERS MIGHT FIND IT ROMANTIC. NOT ME.

PON

PON

HA HA HA

HAHAHA

JEEZ. OH WELL...I DON'T MIND WAITING AROUND LIKE THIS...

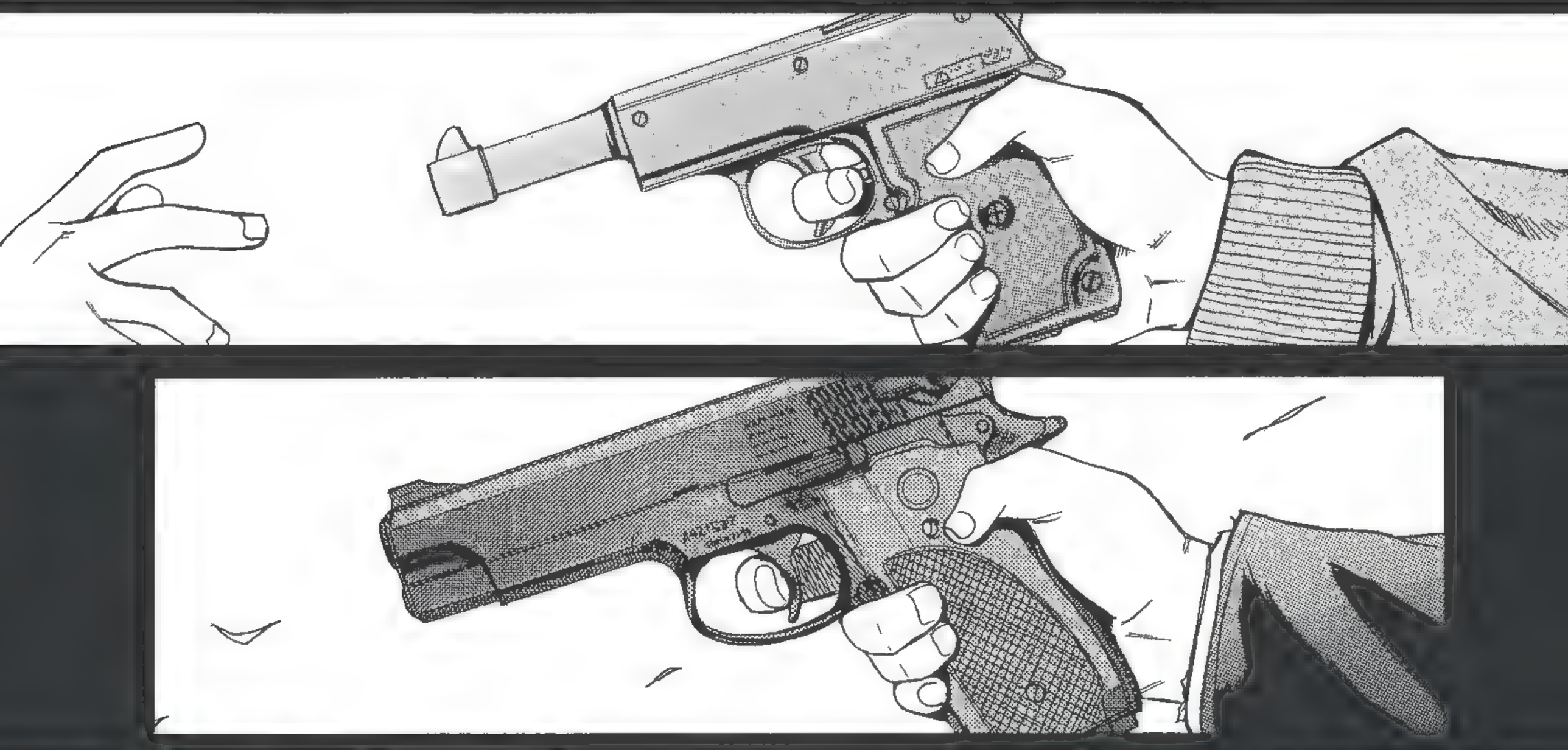
BUT I SURE CAN'T STAND THE BOREDOM.

THE BIG BLUE YONDER...

...LOOKS THE SAME NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE.

WHETHER I'M STANDING ON MOTT AND CANAL...

...OR SITTIN' HERE IN TOKYO...



POSS
COFFE
烏龍茶
SONT
午後の

FP

OOPS.

?

?

FUCK!

'EY!! YOU GODDAMNED BRATS!!

YOU WANT TO SHOOT EACH OTHER UP, WHY DON'T YOU GO TO LEBANON!!

Hey! Give it back!!

HEY NOW.

WH

D

SO, YOU'RE A REAL GUNMAN, ARE YA?

JUST LOOK AT THIS SORRY EXCUSE FOR A GUN...DON'T USE NO GUNPOWDER OR CS, EH?

GAIJIN?

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

LADY, YOU A GAIJIN?

GAIJIN...

GAIJIN...THAT WORD AGAIN? WHAT THE FUCK? IS THAT THE ONLY WORD YOU KNOW?

THOSE CANS THERE...

OKAY, RUGRATS!!

NOW WATCH... OKAY?!

CHK

KEEP AN EYE ON THOSE CANS WE GOT LINED UP THERE, ALL RIGHT?

PLWK PLWK PLNK PLWK PLWK PLWK

KLAK

TONK

KTNG

KTOK

JUST LIKE ANNIE OAKLEY, EH?

HOW 'BOUT THAT?

WOW

WAS THAT A MAGIC TRICK?!

YEAH, IMPRESSED, AREN'T YA?

THAT'S ENOUGH. I DON'T WANT YOU ALL OVER ME.

HOLY COW!!

THAT WAS AMAZING!!

CLICK

CANS SHOP

AACK! IT'S HOT!

KLINK

...WHAT THE...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME...?

THIS IS NUTS...

YOU'RE JACK MCCALL!!

FEW

OOO

OOO

YOU'VE MURDERED WILD BILL, BUT LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN TAKE DOWN CALAMITY JANE!!

C'MON!! LET'S GET IT ON!!

GRK

JESSIE

POP

POP

POP

YA GOT ME!

THUD

AAARGH!

HUH?

NO, NO! YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG.

THAT'S NOT HOW PEOPLE GO DOWN WHEN THEY'RE SHOT.

HEY HEY, WAIT A SEC!

THEY ONLY GO DOWN LIKE THAT IN MOVIES AND TV SHOWS. NOW WATCH.

TRUTH IS, YOU SUDDENLY LOSE YOUR STRENGTH. YOU GET IT?

HEY YOU, KID, YOU!!

WHAT? ME? HUH?!

I'LL SHOW YOU.

GUN ME DOWN!

IT'S LIKE EVERY-THING BELOW YOUR KNEES GOES AWAY, AND YOUR FEET STUMBLE.

YOU JUST DROP WITH YOUR HEAD GOING FORWARD, FLAT ON YOUR FACE. OKAY, YOU GOT IT?

SHPOK

HI RAI!

SLIMP

WHAM

...

THAT DOESN'T LOOK SO COOL, LADY.

UMM...

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOU ARE. WHEN YOU GO DOWN, YOU GO DOWN. JUST LIKE THAT.

IT MIGHT NOT LOOK COOL...

...BUT THEY—

...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

THUMP

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WATCHING?

...

SINCE RIGHT ABOUT WHEN JANE CAME RUSHING INTO THE BAR IN DEADWOOD FOR HER REVENGE.

WHINE

WHAT?!

THE STORY'S DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE I KNOW.

CALAMITY JANE DIDN'T DIE IN THAT SALOON.

THAP THAP

HEY LADY...

CAN I HAVE MY GUN BACK?

YOU LISTEN TO ME, ROCK.

NOT A WORD OF THIS TO DUTCH OR BENNY, OR ELSE I'LL CUT YOUR BALLS OFF AND STUFF 'EM DOWN YOUR THROAT!!

HEY, OUCH. STOP IT!!

DAMNED STRAIGHT.

FORGET IT. IT NEVER HAPPENED.

I WON'T SAY A WORD EVEN IF THEY TORTURE ME.

I WON'T SAY ANY-THING!

SO DID YOU SEE YOUR FOLKS OR WHAT?

ANYWAY, NONE OF THIS MATTERS. WHAT I WANNA KNOW IS...

...WHAT WENT DOWN WITH YOU.

WELL I GOT HOME...

...BUT...

OH...

ABOUT THAT...

...I COULDN'T SEE ANYONE.

SEEMED NO ONE WAS HOME.

...

...WHAT?

NOTHIN'.

OH WELL. HEY, EITHER WAY...

I'LL DO THAT.

WE'D BETTER HURRY. IT'S ALMOST TIME.

...WE'LL BE HERE FOR A WHILE LONGER.

YOU CAN TRY AGAIN LATER.

I HATE THE METRO. REMINDS ME OF THE SHIT I WENT THROUGH IN THE GUTTER.

I'LL PUKE IF I SEE A COP DOWN THERE.

BZ- BZZT

RIGHT. WHERE TO NEXT?

ROPPONGI, FOR A SCHEDULED MEETING WITH THE WASHIMINE. WE'LL TAKE THE SUBWAY.

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE SURROUNDINGS.

AS A WOMAN, I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU LIKE THIS PLACE.

NO BOTHER. HAVING NUDE WOMEN ABOUT DOESN'T OFFEND ME.

BUT I DO RATHER DISLIKE NOISY PLACES.

SHINJUKU'S TOO DANGEROUS. THE KOSA KAI IS ON THE MOVE.

LOT OF FOREIGNERS IN ROPPONGI. HERE YOU WON'T STAND OUT, SEE.

THE KOSA KAI IS ONE OF THE LARGEST ORGANIZATIONS IN THE KANTO REGION. WE NEED TO GO FURTHER TO PUT THE SQUEEZE ON THEM.

BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO TOAST TO OUR SUCCESS.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS BUSINESS. LET'S MOVE ON...

WE MOVE ON TO PHASE TWO AND SHIFT OUR TARGETS.

NOW, OUR NEUTRALIZATION OF ENEMY TARGETS IS PROCEEDING ACCORDING TO PLAN.

FIRST, WE EMPLOY LEGAL MEANS TO CLAMP DOWN ON THEIR INCOME SOURCES—THEIR RETAILERS, ENTERTAINMENT VENUES, INDUSTRIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT...

A SHIFT?

YES, WE CHANGE OUR OPERATIONAL SCOPE. OUR AIM IS TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE QUICKLY.

OF COURSE.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS IS JUST TO RATTLE THEIR CAGE. OUR PRIMARY TARGET IS ELSEWHERE.

...THEY AIN'T AMATEURS.

THEY'RE GONNA CATCH ONTO THIS BEFORE TOO LONG.

I DON'T SEE WHERE YOU'RE GOIN' WITH THIS.

...WHAT'S THE IDEA HERE?

WE EMPLOY A TACTIC THAT WORKS IN ANY SITUATION IN EVERY NATION.

DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT CAN DRAMATICALLY RESOLVE ANY AND ALL CONCERNS.

A KIDNAPPING.

AN ABDUCTION, MR. BANDO.

WE TARGET THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF MASAMI KOSA, THE HEAD OF KOSA KAI.

WE KNOW THEIR LOCATION AND EVERYTHING. WE COULD EXECUTE THIS EFFORTLESSLY.

MS. BALALAIKA...

HGRK!

KASHIRA, SIR—?!

ALL WE WANT OUTTA YOU IS FOR YOU TO *SCUFFLE* WITH THE KOSA KAI TILL THEY LOOSEN THEIR GRIP ON US.

AFTER YOU MAKE A RUCKUS FOR A WHILE, WE CAN THEN LURE THEM IN TO TALK.

DON'T GO OVERBOARD 'N MAKE THINGS COMPLICATED FOR ALL OF US.

WHAT WAS THAT?

HE SAID "WE CAN'T DO THAT."

I DON'T MEAN TO BE BLUNT WITH YOU...

...BUT THAT'S ONE THING WE CAN'T DO.

HAH.

HAH HAH HAH...

ROCK, PLEASE TRANSLATE CAREFULLY. READY?

Эй, ты слышал, сержант?

(DID YOU HEAR THAT, SERGEANT?)

Похоже, они не поняли, в чем прикол!

(I DON'T THINK THEY GET THE JOKE.)

MR. BANDO...

...WE WILL DECIMATE ANYTHING THAT STANDS IN OUR WAY.

WE WILL EMPLOY ANY AND ALL MEANS NECESSARY TO SECURE THE MAXIMUM PROFITS POSSIBLE.

THAT IS WHAT A MAFIA DOES.

FURTHERMORE, *WE* ARE TAKING ON MOST OF THE RISKS HERE.

THUS, THE DECISION-MAKING IS UP TO US, NOT YOU.

I BELIEVE I'VE ALREADY MENTIONED THAT AT THE VERY START.

THUS...

WE ARE TAKING MOST OF THE RISKS HERE.

Chapter 25: Fujiyama Gangsta Paradise - Part IV

THE DECISION-MAKING IS UP TO US, NOT YOU.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?

THAT'S HOW IT IS.

WHAT THE FUCK, RUMI...

SHIT, DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO FUCKIN' CALL ME AROUND THIS TIME?

PI

PI

PII

KCHK

BEEP

PI

PI

PI

...PRADA? NOT INTERESTED. I GOT ENOUGH TO START A STORE. IF IT'S A NEW ONE, YOU CAN GIVE IT TO ME.

WHAT?

SHUT THE FUCK UP. THIS IS GONNA COST YOU A COUPLE OF TEETH.

...FUCK YOU... GET YOURSELF A PAIR OF DENTURES... SHUT UP, I GOTTA GO...YEAH, WHATEVER.

HEH HEH HEH

OH, UH...

I'M SORRY, SIR.

PIP

I TOLD THAT STUPID BITCH DON'T GO CALLIN' ME RIGHT NOW. HONEST, SIR.

CHAKA, YOU PUNK!

THE FUCK YOU THINK YOU'RE DOIN', MORON?

CAN'T YOU SEE WE GOT IMPORTANT *BUSINESS* HERE, ASSHOLE?!

YOSHIDA!

ENOUGH.

GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE!

SHIT-FOR-BRAINS!

CAN YOU GIVE US A LITTLE TIME TO MULL IT OVER?

WE NEED TO TALK THIS OUT AMONG OURSELVES, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

NOW REGARD-ING WHAT YOU JUST *SAID*...

...EXCUSE US FOR THAT OUTBURST.

I LOOK FORWARD TO TOASTING OUR SUCCESS.

OF COURSE.

AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT THREATEN THE INTEGRITY OF OUR OPERATIONAL PLANS.

HEY, MR. TAKA.

WHAT?

THAT GAL OVER THERE. WHAT'S UP WITH HER?

CHAKA, YOU IDIOT. HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED ANYTHING?

FUJISHIMA IS IN THE SLAMMER THANKS TO YOU FUCKING AROUND, YOU ASSHOLE.

NO, NO...

...IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, HONEST.

SHE'S A GUNMAN?! REALLY?! WHOA!!

NO SHIT!

CHAKA YOU LITTLE PUNK. KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN, YOU FUCK.

SHE'S THAT DIMWIT INTERPRETER'S BODYGUARD.

I THINK SOMEONE SAID SHE CAME ALONG WITH THE RUSSIAN FROM ROANAPUR.

...UH, SURE.

I UNDERSTAND, MR. TAKA. BUT YOU KNOW...

...IF BUSTIN' CAPS IS HER GIG, WHO WOULDN'T WANNA SEE HER IN ACTION?

RIGHT?

LISTEN. LAY OFF, CHAKA.

THEY'RE OUR GUESTS.

WE DON'T WANT ANY COMPLICATIONS. YOU GOT IT?

GRIN

ROCK.

IS MS. BALALAIKA STILL WITH THEM?

KCHK

GIVE IT A REST, REVY.

SMOOTHING THINGS OVER HELPS NO MATTER WHAT BUSINESS YOU'RE IN.

IF IDLE CONVERSATION HELPS CLOSE THE DEAL, THEN WHO'S TO COMPLAIN?

LAME...

SOCIALIZIN'S A FUCKIN' WASTE OF TIME. I WANNA GO HOME AND SLEEP.

YEAH...

THEY SAY THEY WANT TO SOCIALIZE FOR A WHILE NOW.

I'D SMOOTH THINGS OVER BY OFFERING 'EM A COCKTAIL MADE WITH LYSOL OR SOMETHIN'.

FLIK

...

MAKES NO SENSE TO ME.

INK

OH...

HEY HEY.

INK

LISTEN...

AH

...YOU'RE A GUNMAN, HUH?

SOMEBODY TOLD ME...

...I DON'T SPEAK NO STINKIN' JAPANESE.

SPEAK ENGLISH.

HEY ROMEO...

...MIND IF I MAKE A COMMENT?

HUH?

HEY CUTIE, YOU FROM ROANAPUR, RIGHT?

RUMOR HAS IT THAT TOWN'S GOT MORE BADASS MOTHERFUCKERS RUNNING AROUND THAN ANY PRISON.

EVER SHOT SOMEONE? I HAVE. I'VE CAPPED ABOUT TEN GUYS...

!

OH RIGHT. IS THIS BETTER?

I RUN THIS JOINT. CAN'T GET BY WITHOUT SPEAKING ENGLISH IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

GAKK

KOFF

AND THAT COLOGNE YOU GOT ON AIN'T HELPING.

I CAN TELL YOUR INSIDES ARE ALL ROTTED OUT.

YOUR BREATH STINKS...

PF

...FUCKHEAD.

KLCHK

REVY!

LET'S GO. MS. BALALAIKA IS WAITING FOR US.

THP

WHAT'S UP? WHAT'S GOING-

SLAM

HEY, MR. INTERPRETER ...

...CAN'T YOU SEE?

WE'RE TALKIN' HERE.

DON'T BARGE IN LIKE THAT.

DON'T YA THINK THAT'S RUDE?

...

REVY, GO ON AHEAD.

GRK

GET MR. BANDO OR MR. YOSHIDA TO...

SNAP!

EH

WHAT

HEY!

YOU KNOW ... ...I DO CRAZY THINGS WHEN I LOSE MY TEMPER.

FUCK

YO...

WHO THE FUCK YOU THINK YOU ARE?

YOU LISTENIN' TO ME, PAL?!

THUD

C'MON !!

YOU TRYIN' TO BRUSH ME OFF, YOU LITTLE SHIT?

I'M BETTIN' YOU'RE HURTIN' FOR SOME REAL ACTION.

AIN'T NO WAY THIS WUSS CAN KEEP YOU SATISFIED IN BED, RIGHT?

YO, BABE.

YOUR BOY HERE IS A PUSSY. HIS GIRL'S WATCHING, BUT HE WON'T FIGHT?

KRK

KTK

LOOK, THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD. WHY DON'T YOU GIVE ME A TRY?

C'MON, YOU FUCK!

KICK

'EY!

YOU STUPID *AND* DEAF? HOW ABOUT IT?!

AINTCHA GOT SOMETHIN' TO SAY, YOU SHIT!

WHAT THE FUCK YOU THINK YOU'RE DOIN'?

CHAKA!!

HEY!!

CHK!

SERIOUSLY SIR, I WAS JUST FOOLIN' AROUND, Y'KNOW. REALLY.

HE HE HE

OH, I'M SORRY SIR.

JUST JIVIN'. NOTHIN' SERIOUS, MR. YOSHIDA.

WHOAZ

OOPS...

YOU GOT ANY IDEA WHAT YA JUST DIDZ!

YOU OKAYZ

HEY PAL.

I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS SHIT. WE'LL PUT THAT PUNK IN HIS PLACE, ALL RIGHTZ

WHO YOU MESSIN' WITH, YOU FUCKIN' PUNKZ! WHATHEFUCK'S WRONG WITH YOUZ!

YANK

Некомпетентный офицер и солдат,
ослушавш ийся приказа.
Сержант, что за зрелище!

(IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT WE ARE NOT IN THE FIELD. WE COULD SIMPLY MAKE THEM KIA, TO SAVE TROUBLE.)

Будь они на поле боя,
их бы прикончили на м
есте - одной проблемой меньше.

(INCOMPETENT OFFICERS AND INSUBORDINATE SOLDIERS. THIS IS GETTING BETTER AND BETTER, SERGEANT.)

HE WASN'T INTERESTED IN ME. HE WANTED YOU.

HE WANTED YOU TO PULL YOUR GUN.

...IT'S ALL RIGHT, I UNDERSTAND.

THAT GUY HAD HIS HAND ON HIS GUN ALL THE WHILE HE WAS BUSTING ME UP.

SHF

YOU OKAY ROCK?

I'M SORRY I COULDN'T HELP YOU OUT. THAT BASTARD-

...THINGS WOULD HAVE GOTTEN REAL COMPLICATED REAL FAST FOR ALL OF US.

YOU WERE PAYIN' ATTENTION, ROCK. YOUR SOUL'S HARDENING–HARD AS A DIAMOND.

BUT YOU HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD. IF I PULLED MY GUN...

I'M WITH YOU. THANK GOD...

I DIDN'T WANT TO END UP WITH A BLOODBATH.

I RUN OUT OF PATIENCE REAL FAST...

...AND I WASN'T SURE I COULD HOLD OFF MUCH LONGER.

IT'S A GOOD THING...

...THOSE GUYS CAME RUSHING OUT WHEN THEY DID.

...HEY WAIT A SEC!

REVY, YOU'RE NOT THINKING ABOUT–

SHF

...ROCK...

...LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA NEED MY CUTLASSES.

I DON'T PLAN ON STARTING ANY SHIT WITH HIM.

BUT I'M SURE THAT FUCKHEAD'S GONNA WANT TO POINT HIS GUN AT ME SOONER OR LATER.

THAT LUNATIC CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIS ASS AND A HOLE IN THE GROUND.

TRUST ME. JUST HOLD OFF UNTIL THE TIME COMES.

DON'T WORRY, ROCK.

I'LL KILL HIM.

I *WILL* KILL HIM.

KOTO KOTO KOTO

KASHIRA...

CHOK CHOK CHOK CHOK

KOTO KOTO

HERE YA GO.

CAN YA...

...HAND ME THE MISO?

THEN WHY DID YOU JOIN UP WITH 'EM...

...KASHIRA ?

'EH LITTLE GIN...

THOSE RUSSIANS AREN'T JUST BADASSES. THEY'RE FUCKIN' MONSTERS.

SHKSHK

BLMP

YOU CAN'T TRUST OUTSIDERS.

YOU KNOW THAT AS WELL AS ANYONE.

'CAUSE WE NEEDED A STRONG ARM TO MUZZLE THE KOSA KAI.

THIS WOULDA' GONE AGAINST THE MEDIATION COUNCIL'S DECISIONS, BUT...

WHILE THE KOSA KAI GOT THEIR HEARTS SET ON GRABBIN' ALL OUR RACKETS?

THE TURF AND THE PEOPLE WE WORKED SO HARD TO CEMENT.

...HMM...

THEN I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD SIT TIGHT AND RIDE OUT THE STORM?

...I FIGURED WE'D SHAKE THINGS UP WITH THOSE RUSSIANS. THEN WE'D PATCH IT ALL UP WITH MONEY. OR THAT WAS THE IDEA, ANYWAY.

...KASHIRA...

PASS ME THE *MIRIN*.

AT THE SUCCESSION CEREMONY I ATTENDED FOR THE NEW KOSA KAI HEAD...

...IT WAS ALL TOO FUCKIN' CLEAR.

AND THEN THERE'S THE SYNDICATE OF ALL THE FAMILIES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE *KANHASSHU** REGION...

THERE AIN'T NO YAKUZA THAT'D TAKE ON ODDS LIKE THIS.

HONESTLY... THINGS DON'T LOOK GOOD.

EVEN IF WE COULD CRUSH THE KOSA KAI, THERE'S THE KANTO MEDIATION COUNCIL ABOVE 'EM.

THEY DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT THE OLD OATH.

UNLESS YOU'RE TALKIN' 'BOUT SOMEBODY WHO JUST DON'T GIVE A FUCK.

YEAH...

...LIKE THEM RUSSIANS.

THIS IS ALL TOO MUCH.

*AN OLD TERM FOR THE KANTO REGION OF JAPAN

BENNY, IS THAT YOU?

I GOT MOST OF THE STUFF YOU ASKED FOR. ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT ME TO PICK UP?

THANKS ROCK. I MEAN IT.

I REALLY DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING TO THE BLACK MARKETS IN BANGKOK FOR THAT KIND OF STUFF.

SHE SAYS FOR YOU TO SEND THE "SWORD AND CUTLASS."

SAY BENNY...

...REVY ASKED ME FOR SOMETHING FROM YOU.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

IS THERE A STORM BREWING?

PASS THEM TO THE BOUGAINVILLEA PEOPLE AND THEY'LL GET THEM HERE THOUGH THE LEATHERNECK EXPRESS.

WHAT'S UP?

SAME HERE.

I'LL MAKE THE ARRANGE-MENTS. TALK TO YOU LATER.

I CAN'T SAY JUST YET.

I HOPE NOT.

OH BOY...

IT'LL BE HARD TO GET A CAB WITH THIS SNOW.

WE HUMBLY APOLOGIZE FOR THIS INCONVENIENCE TO ALL OUR...

...PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT WE HAVE SUSPENDED ALL SERVICE...

...DUE TO A MALFUNCTIONING RAILROAD SWITCH. SERVICE WILL BE RESTORED...

IRK

KCH KCH

HUH?

WHAT A SURPRISE.

ARE YOU WORKING TODAY?

OH, RIGHT!

YOU WERE AT THE *TAKAMACHI*? WHAT A COINCIDENCE!

OH!

OH MY! AREN'T YOU THE-I...

RIGHT.

GETTING READY FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS. TOUGH STUFF.

YES, IT IS.

ALL MY FRIENDS ARE QUITE BUSY STUDYING AS WELL.

WELL...

I WAS COMING BACK FROM PREP SCHOOL.

JUST SHOPPING AT AKIHABARA.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

IT SEEMS THIS MIGHT TAKE A WHILE.

OH NO...

TO ALL PASSENGERS USING THE SOBU LINE...

...WE HUMBLY APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE...

WELL...

...WHY NOT?

OKAY, FOLLOW ME!

...

I KNOW...

ARE THERE ANY CAFÉS NEAR THIS STATION?

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY?

UCC
COFFE

I UNDERSTAND YOU WERE IN THAILAND?

THAT'S IN THE SUBTROPICS. I GUESS IT WOULD HARDLY EVER SNOW THERE.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SEEN THIS MUCH SNOW.

A LONG TIME SINCE I ENJOYED COLD WEATHER TOO.

OH RIGHT!

I'M OKAJIMA. ROKURO OKAJIMA.

I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF.

HAS IT BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU WERE LAST IN JAPAN?

DID YOU GO HOME AND SEE YOUR PARENTS, UMM, MR...

...I'M NOT EAGER TO...

ACTUALLY, I HAVEN'T GONE BACK TO MY PARENTS' PLACE YET.

...TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...

...I'M REALLY NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THEM.

I HAVEN'T SEEN MY FOLKS YET...

ACTUALLY...

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I HAVE NO IDEA HOW I SHOULD APPROACH THEM AT THIS POINT.

I DON'T HAVE ANY GOOD NEWS FOR THEM.

I QUIT MY OLD JOB AND HAVEN'T CONTACTED MY FOLKS FOR OVER A YEAR.

I WONDER.

MAYBE THEY WILL. MAYBE THEY WON'T.

BUT STILL...

...I'M SURE THEY WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

...

I USED TO DISLIKE MY FAMILY AS WELL.

BUT AFTER MY FATHER PASSED AWAY, IT ALL BECAME CLEAR TO ME.

MR. OKAJIMA... YOU REMIND ME OF MYSELF IN THE PAST.

I'M HERE THANKS TO MY FAMILY.

...THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT'S WHERE I BELONG.

NOW, I HAVE FOND FEELINGS TOWARD MY FATHER AND MY FAMILY.

THERE WERE CERTAINLY SOME VERY TRYING TIMES, BUT...

...ERR!

NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!

I JUST-!

HA HA.

I'M JUST JOKING, MR. OKAJIMA.

I DUNNO...

SIP

...MY FRIENDS SAY I SOUND LIKE AN OLD WOMAN.

...WISE WORDS FOR SOMEONE YOUR AGE.

FRANKLY, I HAVE THIS FEELING THAT I'M STUCK IN LIMBO.

PART OF ME DOESN'T WANT TO LET GO, BUT I DON'T HAVE THE GUTS TO TRY PATCHING THINGS UP EITHER.

...HONESTLY...

...I DON'T FEEL THE SAME WAY YOU DO.

I RECALL...

...A FRENCHMAN ONCE SAYING THAT PEOPLE ARE LIKE DICE.

...

KTNK

MR. OKAJIMA.

THE FACT THAT PEOPLE CAN DO THAT PROVES THEY HAVE FREE WILL.

...TO DIFFERENT PATHS OF THEIR CHOOSING.

KLKK

PEOPLE...

...COMMIT THEMSELVES...

ALTHOUGH OUR CIRCUMSTANCE MIGHT DIFFER...

...AND OPTIONS MAY BE LIMITED...

...NEVERTHELESS EVERYONE CAN CHOOSE A PATH.

THAT'S NOT ABOUT COINCIDENCES OR INERTIA, IS IT?

THE RESULTS COME FROM YOUR CHOICES, RIGHT?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

AM I?

PI PI PI PI PI

OH EXCUSE ME. THIS WON'T TAKE A SECOND.

...

YOU'RE RATHER BLUNT, AREN'T YOU?

I'LL HEAD BACK HOME AS SOON AS THE TRAINS START MOVING AGAIN. I'M WAITING OUT THE SNOW WITH MR. OKAJIMA.

TNK

...YES I KNOW.

OH, MR. GIN. YOU WORRY TOO MUCH.

HI, YUKIO HERE.

OH, MR. GIN.

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

YOU REMEMBER ...

WE MET HIM AT THE LAST *TAKAMACHI*... YES, HIM.

MR. BANDO IS THERE? OH DEAR.

THEN I SHOULD HURRY HOME.

...

NOTHIN', MISS.

YES, I UNDERSTAND. I'LL BE HOME SHORTLY.... YES, I WILL.

THE *KASHIRA* DROPPED BY, SO THE SOONER YOU RETURN HOME...

I'M SORRY MR. OKAJIMA, I NEED TO–

UM, YUKIO-CHAN...

I'M SORRY I CAN'T RECALL YOUR SURNAME... PERHAPS I DIDN'T CATCH IT BEFORE.

WHAT IS YOUR LAST NAME?

OH...

...WHY, IT'S WASHIMINE.

AN AUSTERE AND STERN SOUNDING NAME, ISN'T IT?

MY FATHER USED TO SAY HE CHOSE A FEMININE NAME FOR ME TO OFFSET THAT.

KL AK

THUMP

...THOUGHT THIS THROUGH...

...KASHIRA?

YEAH, I'VE...

...GOTTA BREAK IT OFF WITH THE... -SSIANS...

WE'D HAVE TO HAND OVER OUR NAMEPLATE TO THE KOSA KAI AND CLOSE SHOP.

KREEK

FORGET REBUILDING OUR *KUMI*. WE'D BE RUN OUT OF KANTO AND NEWS OF OUR BANISHMENT WOULD SPREAD FAST AND WIDE.

IMAGINE IF WORD LEAKS OUT TO THE MEDIATION COUNCIL.

KLAK

MISS YUKIO.

I'M SORRY FOR NOT BEING MORE ALERT. PLEASE EXCUSE ME.

MISS YUKIO!

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE BACK.

...ABOUT THE CONVERSATION YOU WERE HAVING JUST NOW. WOULD YOU MIND?

MR. BANDO.

PLEASE TELL ME MORE...

THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME. ANY OTHER DEVELOP-MENTS?

NO SIR. IT SEEMS THEY ARE STILL "IN DISCUSSION."

ANY WORD FROM THE WASHIMINE GUMI?

WHAT OF *VOR* LAPTEV?

AT 0600 HOURS, INVESTIGATIVE OFFICERS OF THE TOKYO MPD VISITED THE OFFICES OF THE WASHIMINE GUMI FOR QUESTIONING.

POLICE SPECIAL TASK FORCE UNITS HAVE BARRICADED THE HOME OF THE KOSA KAI'S CHAIRMAN AND THEIR OFFICES TO WARD OFF ANY ATTACKS.

IT'LL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE OUR COVER IS BLOWN.

IT MAY BE BETTER TO RE-DEPLOY OUR MAIN BODY TO THE *MARYA ZALESKA*.

GHIK

WE NEED HIM TO DIE A MORE USEFUL DEATH THAN ONE ISSUED BY A PEOPLE'S COURT.

YOU UNDERSTAND.

I HAVE *VOR* SLEVININ'S APPROVAL ON THIS.

WE NEED NOT INFORM HIM.

WELL I WAS JUST...

...JUST WONDERING WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE WASHIMINE GUMI DROPS OUT?

OH, WHAT IS IT?

...UM...

MS. BALALAIKA.

NOTHING REALLY.

EXACTLY.

ROCK.

C'MON MA'AM.

BEST YOU BE MINDFUL OF WHERE YOU STAND, RIGHT?

HE WANTS TO KNOW. GO AHEAD AN' TELL HIM.

CHOMP

DON'T CUT HIM OFF LIKE THAT.

IT'S NOT AS IF IT'S A BIG SECRET OR SOMETHIN'.

WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH YOU?

YEAH, I KNOW, BUT AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO BE TIGHT WITH ROCK?

MAINTAINING TRUST IS IMPORTANT TOO, YOU KNOW.

WHY ARE YOU GOING OUT ON A LIMB FOR HIM ALL OF A SUDDEN, TWO HAND?

"SILENCE IS GOLDEN"?

ROCK, LET'S ASSUME WHAT YOU MENTIONED *DID* HAPPEN.

WELL... QUITE THE TALKER YOU'VE BECOME.

ALL RIGHT.

IT WOULDN'T CHANGE OUR JOB, WOULDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING. LIFE GOES ON.

THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT, DEAR.

THEN WE'D ADD ANOTHER TARGET TO THE LIST.

図書室

YUKI-CHAN!

KLAK-KLAK

SIGN: LIBRARY

..SO YOU SEE, SENPAI...

SLUMP

SINCE I DID SO BADLY ON THE LAST ROUND OF FINAL EXAMS..

MY MOM WENT ALL BALLISTIC ON ME, SAYING HOW I GOTTA QUIT MY PART-TIME JOB AND STUFF.

BESIDES, ONE TEST WON'T...

DON'T WORRY.

HAVE FUN AT WORK.

I'M REALLY SORRY! I'LL STAY BEHIND AND HELP YOU NEXT TIME, OKAY?!

WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY THEN.

...

KASHIRA.

SLUGGIN' IT OUT IN THE BLOOD AND DIRT, THAT'S OUR THING. NOT HERS.

THIS SHIT'S GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH THE MISS. IT AIN'T PART OF HER WORLD.

I'M AGAINST THIS.

WE GOTTA AT LEAST GIVE HER SOME LEEWAY ABOUT WHATEVER COMES NEXT, RIGHT?

HEY LITTLE GIN.

EVEN SO, YA GOTTA REMEMBER HERE, THE MISS IS THE ONLY DIRECT DESCENDANT.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TRYING TO DO? YOU GONNA GO AGAINST THE BOSS'S WISHES?

...THIS IS MY BUSINESS AS WELL.

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN DRAG THE MISS INTO–

PLEASE, REMEMBER.

PLEASE, MR. GIN...

AFTER ALL...

I CAN'T SIT IDLY BY AND IGNORE THE DIFFICULTIES THAT YOU FACE.

...I WAS BORN INTO AND RAISED BY THIS HOUSEHOLD.

I AM RYUZO WASHIMINE'S DAUGHTER.

...

IF I QUIT NOW, THE DINER WOULD BE IN TROUBLE...

...MY MOM, THAT IS, WON'T LET GO ABOUT MAKING ME QUIT MY JOB.

...SO THEN SHE SAYS...

DAMNED BASTARDS KNOW EXACTLY JUST HOW ROTTEN THAT DEAL IS.

THEY CLAIMED THEY'D BE WILLIN' T' MAKE AN OATH ON EQUAL TERMS WITH A DIRECT DESCENDANT.

F
W
P

...WAS HOW WE WERE MISSIN' A BOSS.

AFTER THE OLD MAN PASSED AWAY, THE FIRST THING THEY BROUGHT UP...

THOSE DIRTY STINKIN' LOW-LIFES...!!

DIRECT DESCENDANT ...

THAT CAN ONLY MEAN YOU, MISS.

...THEN DOES THAT MEAN...

NOW, MISS...

THAT OKAJIMA GUY YOU SAID YOU MET.

THEY USE THAT OATH AGAINST US, AN' LOWER OUR STANDING.

SLOWLY STRANGLIN' US...BIT BY BIT.

SO I REALIZE I'M OUT OF LINE HERE TO ASK THIS BUT...

HE'S A PART OF ALL THIS.

HE WORKS FOR THE RUSSIANS. HE'S IN WITH THEM.

NOW HONESTLY, I'M AT A LOSS FOR WHAT TO DO AT THIS POINT, MISS.

AT LEAST NOT WITHOUT ME AROUND.

...PLEASE, DON'T GO OUT SEEIN' HIM.

OH DEAR.

I'M...I'M SORRY, MAKI.

...SENPAI?

ARE YOU LISTENING TO A WORD I'M SAYING, SENPAI?

HMM?

WHAT IS IT?

MAKI-CHAN, DO YOU...

AHH! YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION AT ALL!

THIS IS SERIOUS STUFF, *SENPAI*. PLEASE!

I'M SORRY... I WAS THINKING OF SOMETHING ELSE.

OH *C'MON.*

YOU CAN'T JUST PULL BACK AFTER SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

...NOTHING.

IT'S POINTLESS TO ASK QUESTIONS LIKE THAT, I SUPPOSE. I'M SORRY.

SHF

WHP

WHP

KCHK

WHAT

ING.

KLIK

TMP

KASHIRA!!

東風荘

I'M JUST TAKIN' A WALK. NOTHIN' T' SEE HERE.

YOSHIDA.

WHAT'S UP?

SHIT, YOSHIDA.

HAVEN'T HEARD YOU CALL ME *ANIKI*...

TOK

...

*ANIKI**...

...IN A LONG TIME, HUH?

...YOU GOING TO SEE THE RUSSIANS?

**"ELDER BROTHER", A TERM OF RESPECT FOR SENIOR YAKUZA

SNIK

ANIKI!!

FWP

HEY, YOSHIDA.

KEEP IT.

P-PLEASE!! LET ME GO WITH-!

...HE'S A HELL OF A MAN IN HIS OWN RIGHT.

ASK LITTLE GIN ABOUT WHAT TO DO NEXT.

YOU MAY NOT LIKE HIM, BUT...

CONSIDER HIS WORDS AS MY OWN.

I WANT YOU TO KEEP THAT IN MIND AND SERVE HIM WELL.

...

ANIKI!!

WELL...

...SO LONG...

...OR SOMETHIN'.

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THE KASHIRA...

HE'S BEEN MURDERED.

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO 'BOUT THE FUNERAL ARRANGE-MENTS...

...GINJI.

THIS MORNIN'.

THEY LEFT A SUITCASE IN FRONT OF THE OFFICE...

...

...WHEN?

GOD FUCKING DAMN IT!!

THOSE RUSSIAN BASTARDS!!

WE CAN'T LET WORD GET OUT YET.

I FEEL BAD FOR THE *KASHIRA*, BUT HE'S GONNA HAVE TO WAIT A LITTLE LONGER...

...BEFORE WE CAN SEND HIS SOUL TO THE PURE LAND.

...

WAS THERE ANYTHIN' ELSE?

...THERE WAS A NOTE WRITTEN IN RUSSIAN...

...STUFFED INSIDE THE *KASHIRA'S* MOUTH.

...

"YELLOW IS THE COLOR OF COWARDS."

THAT'S WHAT WAS WRITTEN ON IT. MOTHERFUCKERS !!

...YOSHIDA...

WHATEVER THE RUSSIANS SAY, THE *KASHIRA* WASN'T NO FOOL...OR A COWARD.

...WAS STUCK DEALING WITH THE SHIT THE KOSA KAI WAS RAISING.

AND WITH NO ONE LEFT TO TURN TO.

...THE THING ABOUT THE *KASHIRA* WAS...

SOONER OR LATER IT WOULDA COME TO THIS NO MATTER WHO...

THERE WASN'T NOTHIN' HE DID THAT WAS WRONG.

...HE WAS TOO SMART.

THAT'S ALL.

BUT...

...YEAH...

ANIKI WAS ONE SHARP MAN.

BUT WHAT DO WE DO NOW...?

WHAT THE HELL'S GONNA BECOME OF US?

FWP

PHEW...

...

Потрясающее местечко для разговора тет-а-тет.

(YOU CERTAINLY CHOSE A VERY INTERESTING PLACE FOR A LITTLE TETE-A-TETE.)

Знаешь, коней на переправе не меняют.

(YOU KNOW, YOU CAN'T SWAP HORSES MIDSTREAM.)

YOU REALLY SURE YOU'RE WILLIN' T' WORK SIDE BY SIDE WITH US?

...LADY...

I'LL ASK YA JUST ONE MORE TIME.

I FEEL THE SAME WAY.

THINGS WOULD'VE BEEN EASIER FOR US HAD THIS ARRANGEMENT CONTINUED A WHILE LONGER.

BUT NO BOTHER. IT'S RATHER TRIVIAL, REALLY.

..WELL.

WHAT A CRYIN' SHAME.

THAT'S NOT A QUESTION FOR YOU TO ASK.

RATHER, IT'S ONE FOR YOU TO ANSWER.

WAIT JUST ONE MINUTE.

WE STILL GOT SOME *UNFINISHED* BUSINESS...

...YOU PIECE OF SHIT!!

SHIT

KTV

WHOOSH

KICK

B-

BUT-!

TRANSLATE!

Сто лет в рукопашную не ходила.
(IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I FOUGHT HAND TO HAND.)
Мастерство не пропьешь.
(OLD HABITS DIE HARD, I SUPPOSE.)

CLR

KK

ROCK, TRANSLATE WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY... AND I WANT YOU TO BE BLUNT.

...

...T-
TONIGHT...

...TONIGHT, I'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION...

...AND TELL YOU THE TRUTH.

...SUCH AN OPTION IS PLAUSIBLE.

BUT...

WORKING SIDE BY SIDE.

TRUE...

H-01
03

I AM HERE TO BRING DESTRUCTION AND DOMINATION.

...THAT'S FOR OFFICE WORKERS. I HAVE NO NEED FOR SUCH ARRANGEMENTS.

UNDERSTAND?

...I CAN DANCE ON THE BOTTOM OF HELL'S CAULDRON.

...ALL I CARE ABOUT IS SEEING HOW LONG ...

I AM NOT INTERESTED IN ANYTHING ELSE. NOTHING LESS. NO COMPROMISES.

YOU SEE...

TIME'S UP.

SO...

...TILL WE MEET AGAIN.

UNGH.

NOT VERY WELL, I'D SAY.

YOU WERE GROANING LIKE AN OLD BUICK.

...

WAS I... SLEEPING?

HEY!

GOTTA BE CAREFUL HOW YOU DRINK, ROCK.

ESPECIALLY SINCE THINGS ARE GONNA GET BUSY SOON.

...UH...

GUESS I HAD QUITE A NIGHT-MARE.

YOU OKAY? YOU'RE IN A COLD SWEAT.

MS. BALALAIKA WANTS US TO TAG ALONG WHEN SHE GREETS HER REINFORCE-MENTS AND THE REPLACEMENTS COMING IN.

MOVING?

SOME-THING'S UP?

THE REMAINING *VYSOTNIKI* COMMANDOS WILL BE SPLIT BETWEEN THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY AND THE CARGO SHIP.

LAPTEV'S GONNA BE LIKE *THIS*.

ШНSК

YEAH, WE'RE MOVIN'.

...I GUESS THERE'S NO WAY...

...TO AVERT A CONFLICT.

MAN'S GOT NO BALLS BUT SHITS EVERYWHERE. GUESS THE BIG CHEESE IN MOSCOW WANTS HIM TO PLAY A DIFFERENT TUNE.

ONLY A MATTER A TIME BEFORE THE YAKUZA TAKE HIM APART.

YEAH...

LORD HAVE MERCY ON LAPTEV'S SORRY ASS.

A DECOY?

STORM'S COMING, ROCK.

A STORM WITH A HAIL OF BULLETS AND RAINING BLOOD.

HELL NO.

HOTEL MOSCOW WANTS TO RAISE ALL HELL.

MR. GINJI...

KLAK

...UH, WELL...

...I WAS JUST THINKIN' 'BOUT THINGS AN'...

...

MISS YUKIO...

MR. GINJI... I...

ABOUT THAT ARRANGE-MENT...

...WITH THE KOSA KAI.

THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT US AS EQUALS IF I...IF I WERE THE SUCCESSOR...

I'VE BEEN THINKING.

MISS...THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION!!

BUT...

...THERE'S NO OTHER WAY, IS THERE?

THAT'S JUST CRAP THOSE KOSA PUNKS DREAMT UP.

YOU CAN'T TAKE THEIR WORD ON BULL LIKE-

IF I AM THE LAST REMAINING PILLAR OF THE WASHIMINE GUMI...

...THEN THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.

...IF I ALONE WERE TO LEAD A SAFE LIFE IN THE LIGHT...

...IN EXCHANGE, YOU AND MANY OTHERS WOULD BE DOOMED TO WANDER IN THE DARKNESS.

A TRADE-OFF BETWEEN MY LIFE...

...AND THE LIVES OF OVER A HUNDRED PEOPLE THAT DIED PROTECTING THIS FAMILY.

I CANNOT...

...ESCAPE THAT REALITY.

...

MISS YUKIO.

MY ONE AND ONLY WISH...

...WAS FOR YOU TO ENJOY THE KIND OF HAPPINESS THAT REAL FOLK DO...

I'VE COME THIS FAR...

...FOCUSED ON THAT GOAL ALONE.

THAT'S WHAT I TAKE TO BE MY PURPOSE IN LIFE...

MY...

I...

...RAGE IS BOILING OVER INSIDE ME... AGAINST THOSE ROTTEN KOSA BASTARDS. AGAINST THE DIRTY LOWLIFE RUSSIANS.

EVERY SINGLE ONE OF 'EM...

...IS HARD AT WORK, TRYIN' TO WRECK OUR LIVES, AND TEAR EVERY-THING APART!!

...

GINJI-SAN...

...THE SNOW FALLING AT NIGHT. IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER REALIZED IT.

...GIN-SAN...

GINJI-SAN
...

...WILL YOU PROTECT ME?

AS YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT...

...I, GINJI MATSUZAKI, THE INTERIM *WAKAGASHIRA* OF THE WASHIMINE-GUMI...

...DO HEREBY SWEAR TO PROTECT YOU...

...WITH EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING, IN THIS LIFE AND BEYOND.

SO WHAT'S UP WITH THIS ANYWAY?

KC HK

BOY, DUSK COMES EARLY...

...THIS TIME OF YEAR, DOESN'T IT?

I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS, MAKI-CHAN.

IT WAS SOMETHING I HAD TO FINISH RIGHT AWAY.

US FINISHING OFF FILING THE LIBRARY CARDS...

THANK GOODNESS WE GOT IT DONE, BUT THAT'S A TALL ORDER TO FILL EVEN FOR YOU, *SENPAI*.

Chapter 28: Fujiyama Gangsta Paradise - Part VII

...OH WOW!

IT'S REALLY STARTING TO COME DOWN NOW...

HUH?

SENPAI, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU HATED-

MAKI-CHAN.

I WANT YOU TO GET ALONG WITH YOUR MOTHER.

HM?

...

HOW BEAUTIFUL.

SHP

YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL AND YOU KNOW IT.

WHAT'S WITH YOU?

YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO DIE.

S...

SENPAI...

KI

KI

KI

?!

SENPAI?

HA

A

THMP

HP

...SODAI.

AT YOUR SERVICE...

GOOD-BYE...

...MAKI-CHAN.

...

THANK YOU FOR WAITING.

RIGHT, LET'S BEGIN.

UH...

UMM...

FLAP

5

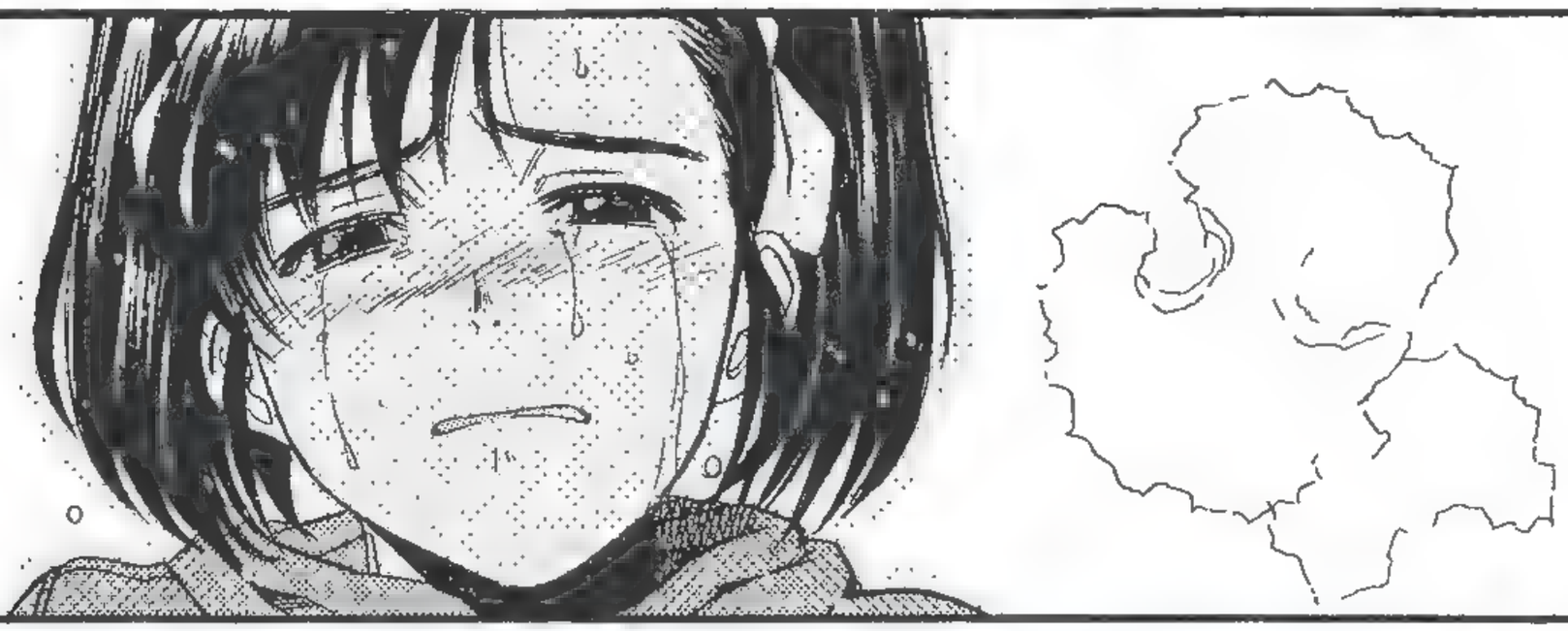
TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF.

NO WAIT...

I...

...I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

SENPAI!!



WHO CAN

WE'VE HIRED PEOPLE TO LOOK FOR 'EM.

THEY'RE RUSSIANS AFTER ALL. THEY'LL STAND OUT.

NOTHING, *SODAI.**

THEY MOVED SHOP A WHILE AGO.

ANY WORD ON...

BALALAIKA'S WHERE-ABOUTS?

I'LL ASK 'EM TO SNOOP AROUND FOR US.

THERE ARE SOME POLITICAL GROUPS THAT KNOW THAT AREA WELL.

FLIP

WATCH THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY AND OTHER PLACES THEY MIGHT FREQUENT.

PLEASE COVER THE AZABU AREA AS WELL.

I'M SURE THEY'RE COUNTING ON US TO STRIKE BACK.

SHE *WANTS* TO START A FIGHT WITH US. BALALAIKA, THAT IS.

I THINK IT'S UNLIKELY THEY WOULD LEAVE JAPAN.

DONCHA THINK WE OUGHTA COVER NARITA AND HANEDA...

SODAI?

*TERM OF RESPECT FOR A TOP YAKUZA LEADER

...

UH...

YES'M!

MR. YOSHIDA.

SODAI...

...SHOULD I STOP THE CAR?

I REALLY APPRECIATED WHAT YOU SAID AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

I...

I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO THANK YOU.

NO, IT'S OKAY.

I NEED TO GET USED TO THIS.

UR

IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU, MR. YOSHIDA, I'M SURE THE WASHIMINE GUMI WOULD HAVE BROKEN UP.

R R R

SODAI!

PLEASE! REALLY...!

BACK THEN...

THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MET FOLLOWING THE MURDER OF TSUGIO BANDO AND DECIDED THAT...

...IN ORDER TO MEET THE CHALLENGE POSED BY THE KOSA KAI, AND OUR OBLIGATION TO THE MEDIATION COUNCIL...

...I, YUKIO WASHIMINE, THE DAUGHTER OF RYUZO WASHIMINE, WOULD HUMBLY SUCCEED TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THIS FAMILY.

I AM CERTAIN MANY WOULD NOT WELCOME THIS.

BUT I ASK FOR YOUR AID AT THIS TIME OF DIRE CRISIS FOR THE *KUMI*.

RUSTLE

LISTEN UP, YOU MISERABLE GRUNTS.

YOU KNOW DAMN WELL THAT THE MISS IS SITTIN' HERE...

...'CAUSE SHE CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH YOU CHUMPS LOSE YOUR SHIRTS AN' GET LEFT OUT IN THE COLD BY THOSE KOSA KAI SCUM.

WELL, I DON'T KNOW A BETTER TIME TO START THAN *NOW!!*

OUR DEAR MISS IS SAYIN' SHE'S GONNA PUT HER LIFE ON THE LINE FOR THIS.

YOU MEN WANTED A WAY TO PROVE YOUR CHIVALRY AND HONOR.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF BEING A MAN OF THE *GOKUDO*, IF YOU CAN'T FIGHT FOR SOMEONE LIKE THAT?

RR

MISS, YOU'RE STICKING OUT YOUR NECK T'GET REVENGE FOR THE *KASHIRA*. 'AT'S SOMETHIN' YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO.

I DIDN'T DO NOTHIN' SPECIAL.

...I SUPPOSE SO...

AND BESIDES, MISS.

THWIP

RIGHT, *SODAI*.

SK RK

ALLOW ME TO GET THIS BALL ROLLING. I'LL SEE YOU LATER AT HOME.

MR. GIN.

EVERYONE BELOW KNOWS DAMN WELL...

...YOU'RE NOT DOING THIS FOR POWER OR GLORY.

SINCE YOU'RE LEADING THE CHARGE IN ALL THIS...

...PLEASE, BE CAREFUL.

...

...

JUST LEAVE IT TO ME.

KA

PIP

NO DICE, BOSS.

TRY AGAIN.

KEEP CALLING THEM UNTIL YOU GET THROUGH, MAKARUSHKA.

I CAN'T GET THROUGH TO BALALAIKA OR ANYONE ELSE IN HER GROUP.

THEY'VE CHECKED OUT OF THE HOTEL AND LEFT WITHOUT A TRACE.

HOW 'BOUT CONTACTING MOSCOW FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

KRAAAAGH!

"FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS?" YOU SOME KINDA TECHNOCRAT?

ALL YOU MISERABLE DOUCHE BAGS ARE GOOD FOR IS SLUGGING DOWN VODKA AND PLAYING POKER.

WHEN I SAY "TRY AGAIN," YOU TRY AGAIN, THAT'S IT!

CAN'T YOU DO MORE THAN CLEAN CHAIR SEATS WITH YOUR ASSES?

...

...FUCK.

THAT BITCH MUST'VE EGGED ON THE BOSS.

OR ELSE THERE'D BE NO REASON WHY *VOR* SLEVENIN WOULD BETRAY US...

FUCK...!

FUCK, FUCK, FUCK!!

AFGHANISTAN... THAT'S HER DEVIL. SHE CAN'T LET GO OF WHAT HAPPENED BACK THEN.

THE LIST OF PEOPLE THAT BITCH CRUSHED IN MOSCOW COULD FILL A BOOK.

'CAUSE SHE HATES THE KGB.

NOT JUST THE KGB, THE GRU AND ALL THE *NOMENKLATURA.*

SKRIK

BOSS...

WHY'D THAT WOMAN WANNA PUT US IN A FIX?

WHN K

WRRR

THEN THE *VORY V ZAKONE-*

GET DOWN!

KR ASH

BA

KKRSH

KSHH

KTING

BLAM

BLAM

SHIT!!

YAKUZA BASTARDS !!

KCHK

CHK

BA-BAN

VCHAK

"SUKEROKU FROM SOGA'S HERE TO PLAY...

"NOW THEN...

"...WHERE MIGHT I FIND BEARDED IKYU?"

ZCH-K

ALL HE'S GOT IS A SWORD!

WASTE HIM!!

INFOCH-K

CLICK

THUD

BLAM

WA

RA

GH

!!

BLAM

KR

ASH

DASH

H

FLASH

PUSH

SHUT

HAAH!
HUH...

WHO IS THIS GUY?!

ACK!

ARGH!

SRK

HEY, BUDDY...

...WHERE YOU GOIN'?

KRAK

PUT THE WORD IN TO MAKE MY FEE A LITTLE FATTER, WILL YA?

THE BRASS'S BEEN GETTIN' NOSEY. GOTTA KEEP THIS WORTH MY WHILE, SEE?

WELL BRO, WHY DON'T YOU ASK 'EM YOURSELF?

WHAT'S UP?

BMP

CAN'T GET ANYWHERE WITHOUT THESE. HUH?

FINALLY, I CAN GET RID OF THIS WORTHLESS TOKAREV.

SORRY TO KEEP YA WAITING, ROCK!

...IT'S STARTED.

VRRRRR

BALALAIKA WILL GET PISSED UNLESS WE HUSTLE!

MS. BALALAIKA MUST BE GRINNING FROM EAR TO EAR. AN ALL-OUT BRAWL, JUST LIKE SHE WANTED.

YOU MEAN THE GANG WAR?

日事務所襲撃

WHAT?

...

THAT GIRL.

REVY.

I CAN'T TURN A BLIND EYE.

WILL YOU COME WITH ME TO GO SEE THAT GIRL YUKIO?

*SCROLLING SIGN: ...WASHIMINE GUMI OFFICES RAIDED BY...

REVY.

I CAN'T TURN A BLIND EYE.

WILL YOU COME WITH ME TO GO SEE THAT GIRL YUKIO?

WORLD TRIGGER

581

Chapter 29: Fujiyama Gangsta Paradise - Part VIII

YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?

YOU PUT YOUR THINKING CAP ON AND FIGURE OUT WHAT WE ARE TO THEM.

WE'RE THEIR MOST HATED ENEMY, ROCK.

THE

PLEASE, REVY!!

YOU'VE SEEN HOW MS. BALALAIKA ACTS AT TIMES LIKE THIS.

WE CAN'T JUST STAND BY AND LET THIS PASS!!

IF SHE HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE WASHIMINE GUMI, THEN THE STORM WILL HIT HER TOO.

LISTEN TO ME, ROCK.

THAT GIRL ISN'T LIKE US! SHE'S A REGULAR SCHOOLGIRL!

STAY OUT OF IT. IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.

AND THIS ISN'T ROANAPUR!!

...

EITHER WAY, THAT GAL'S CROSSED OVER THE LINE.

AND THE MADAM'LL TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS JUST LIKE BACK IN ROANAPUR. WHAT'S THE DIFF?

HOW SO? WHAT MAKES THIS PLACE ANY DIFFERENT FROM ROANAPUR, ROCK?

...

I'M BEGGIN' YOU, ROCK.

...

YEAH, BUT...

WE'RE RIGHT ON THE DIVIDING LINE HERE. IF YOU CROSS OVER...

...YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO COME BACK. *EVER.*

...I CAN'T JUST...

YOU GET WHAT I'M TRYIN' TO SAY?

ROCK. THIS IS YOUR COUNTRY, YOUR HOME. LISTEN, MAN...

THEY'RE SOLD OUT OF AMERIPASS AND THE GREYHOUND WON'T COME THROUGH HERE NO MORE.

I UNDER-STAND.

BUT STILL...

...

...I'M YOUR GUN.

I FORGOT SOMETHING REAL IMPORTANT. WHILE I'M HERE WITH YOU...

HUH?

HEY...

...I'M SORRY.

MY JOB'S TO PROTECT YOUR LIFE...

...NOT TELL YOU HOW TO LIVE IT.

SO, NO PROBLEM. LEAD THE WAY, MY MASTER.

FORGET IT, ROCK.

KTMP

KIDS... THEY'RE SO CUTE AT THAT AGE, AREN'T THEY.

GO ON, SERGEANT.

MA'AM!

PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO RING FOR ME ANYTIME!

HAI.

DOMO ARIGATO.

RIGHT, SO I AM TO...

...ONLY FORWARD PHONE CALLS FROM THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY AND NO ONE ELSE...

MISS... UHH... VLADILENA?

RAIDING POINT TWO IS AT CONDITION YELLOW.

YES CAPTAIN.

THE RECON TEAM HAS REPORTED THAT WE NEED TO ALTER OUR STAGING AREA SLIGHTLY.

THIS COUNTRY'S *MILITSIYA** ARE EXCEPTIONAL.

THE ONLY EXCEPTION BEING SNIPER ROOSTS.

THE AREA AROUND THE OFFICES OF THE KOSA KAI HAS BEEN SEALED TIGHT.

*POLICE

"QUALITY ALWAYS OUTSTRIPS QUANTITY."

NOW THEN...

...RECITED OVER AND OVER AGAIN BY THE INSTRUCTORS AT OSTROV VRANGELYA.

AH, I CAN FONDLY RECALL THAT SAYING...

GSH

ANY POLICE FORCE THAT CANNOT BE BRIBED IS EXCEPTIONAL.

...DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS, SERGEANT?

THE ISSUE IS ONE OF QUALITY.

YES SIR.

...EXCEPTIONALLY WELL.

COMRADE LAPTEV PERFORMED HIS DUTIES...

GO

FOR STARTERS, THAT LADY BOSS OF YOURS.

SO...

...THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I WANNA ASK YA.

MIND TELLIN' ME HOW I MIGHT GIVE HER A CALL?

...AH.

DON'T SPEAK JAPANESE, HUH? I SEE.

Подожди!
Не убивай меня!

CHK

VWSH

NOT MUCH USE THEN...

...ARE YA?

Это не я!
Меня подставили!

Черт, он не понимает.
Опусти же меч!

I AGREE, SERGEANT.

FOR A MERE *CHEKIST*...

...HE WAS QUITE USEFUL...

...IN PROVIDING US WITH ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE.

HIS REPLACEMENT IS MONK BULIGASHVILI.

HE'S QUITE PROFICIENT IN SCAMS, SCHEMES, AND SAVAGERY.

BUT VIOLENCE IS OUR SPECIALTY.

LET'S BEGIN OUR MISSION, SERGEANT.

I'M HUMBLED BY YOUR COMMAND OF THINGS...

...MISS.

I'M...I'M SORRY 'BOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT SCHOOL.

I REALIZED COMIN' TA GREET YA THERE MIGHT NOT'VE BEEN SUCH A GOOD IDEA, BUT...

IT'S OKAY. I UNDERSTAND.

I FEEL BAD ABOUT MAKING YOU GO THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE.

...

UM...

...MISS.

WE'LL FIND OUT FROM OUR HQ HOW THINGS WENT.

YES, CERTAINLY.

YOU'VE WORKED HARD YOURSELF, MR. YOSHIDA.

THANK YOU, MR. YOSHIDA.

EITHER WAY, I WANTED TO LET MAKI KNOW SOONER OR LATER.

PERHAPS THAT WAS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY.

C'MON MISS, IT'S COLD TONIGHT. WE GOTTA GET YOU INSIDE.

ZKK

REALLY, MISS, YOU'RE TOO KIND...! UH...

GOSH!

OK

WHOOPS.

KLK

I THOUGHT YOU'D TAKE A LITTLE LONGER. OH WELL.♡

HELLO.

BACK SO SOON.

CHAKA!

YOU MIND YOUR PLACE AROUND HERE!

YOU EVEN LISTENIN' TO ME?!

YEAH, YEAH.

THIS IS AN EMERGENCY.

HAVING MORE TROOPS AROUND'LL PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE.

RIGHT, MISS? ♡

CHAKA.

WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU DOIN' HERE?

YOU GOT TURF T'PROTECT. WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

...CHAKA...

THESE... HELPERS OF YOURS?

MR. YOSHIDA...

JEEZ, MAN.

WERE YOU BORN YESTERDAY?

CLICK

CLICK

KRAAK

YOU SEE, WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE...

...WE DON'T WANNA BE ON THE SIDE THAT'S GOT NOTHIN' TO GAIN.

WE'RE NOT TEAMING UP WITH THE RUSSIANS.

AFTER ALL, WE DON'T WANNA MAKE A DEAL AND THEN LOSE OUR SHIRTS.

THD

AAARGH!

THMP

WHOOPS, DID THAT HURT?

SORRY 'BOUT THAT, MR. YOSHIDA.

...AS LONG AS WE GOT SOMETHING WE CAN USE AS A BARGAINING CHIP, IT'LL WORK OUT.

RIGHT, *MISS?*

CHT

ACTUALLY, THE KOSA KAI OR THE RUSSIANS, IT DON'T MATTER...

BA

QUIT BLABBERING, YOU FUCKING PUNCH-PERM MOTHER-FUCKER.

HERE.

JUST FUCKING DIE.

AH, SCREW IT.

G

...MISS!!

GET OUTTA-

BLACK
BLACK
DEATH
DEATH

YA
WARI
I SAID...
...THAT HURT.
NO!
...OW, MAN. THAT HURT...
HEY, BITCH.
THUD
SMASH
UGH
KOFF
MAN, I FEEL SORRY FOR HER.
HEE HEE HAH
WHOOA... WATCH OUT, HONEY.
YOU DON'T WANNA PISS OFF HANA-CHAN, BELIEVE ME.

SLAP

SMACK

YA GOT SOMETHIN' TO SAY?! WELL?!

HOW 'BOUT "SORRY" OR SOMETHING?! YOU WORTHLESS SKANK!

C'MON! SAY IT!!

WHACK

KRK

FUCKIN' BITCH!

GRIP

KRK

YOU WANNA MESS WITH ME?!

I SAID...

...THAT HURT. WELL?!

HUH?

HEEEY.

HANADA.

SWISS

IF YOU DON'T MIND YOUR PLACE...

...I'LL KILL YA, CUPCAKE. ♡

WHO SAID YOU COULD SLAP HER SILLY?

HEY PAL.

KRAK

WHOA

RIGHT, BABY? ♡

SO, JUST DO WHAT WE SAY...

...OR WHO KNOWS WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN.

HA-HA

YOU'RE SUCH A LAME-ASS, HANA-CHAN.

WELL, HOW 'BOUT THAT?

OH I'M SO SORRY, YUKI-CHAN.

LLKN CH

Y'SEE, WE LOSE OUR TEMPER REAL FAST AND GET WILD WHEN WE DO, Y'KNOW.

BA-SH THOKK

AH'M...

...SORRY, SORRY! BLEEZ...!

KRAB

!!

GAKK!

TMP

KCHK

FORGET IT.

MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, ROCK, BUT...

REVY!

WE'RE UNWANTED GUESTS.

IF WE WENT AROUND THE BACK, WE'D RAISE-

...

HEY, ROCK.

IS THIS THE ONLY WAY IN AND OUT?

RRRR

VAMP

NO, IF IT WAS...

...THEN THE GIRL'S BODY WOULD BE BESIDE HIM.

MS. BALALAIKA WOULDN'T SEE YUKIO AS A USEFUL HOSTAGE.

MAYBE SOME AK'S TOO. BUT LOOK AT THE FLOOR.

WHY AREN'T THERE ANY CASINGS LYING AROUND?

...AND SHE'D HAVE USED HER STECHKIN.

OTHERS IN HER CADRE USE VARYAG'S AND OTHER MILITARY SEMI-AUTOS.

...

KCHAK

BALALAIKA?

AND Y'KNOW ...

...THERE'S ONE MORON IN PARTICULAR THAT COMES TO MIND.

ROLL

EXIT WOUND FROM A LARGE CALIBER GUN.

THE KIND OF GUN A TOTAL MORON WHO WANTS TO SHOW OFF CARRIES AROUND.

CHA-CHING, JACKPOT.

I FEEL SORRY FOR YOSHIDA. HE AIN'T HALF THE MAN HE USED TO BE.

TAKE A LOOK.

...

BECAUSE THE GUN WAS A REVOLVER.

SHK

...

YEAH, IT'S GOTTA BE HIM.

BUT...

BUT WHY WOULD HE BETRAY HIS OWN?

NO,
WAIT!!

Black Lagoon Volume 4 - The End -

RING-A-LING-A-LING

KCHNG

...I SURE DRANK TOO MUCH LAST NIGHT...

SCRITCH SCRATCH

WHAT A HEADACHE...

NOW WHERE WAS I SUPPOSED TO GO TO...

BLORB

BOOBS?!

BLACK LAGOON

JIGGLE

By Rei Hiroe

~ Boys and Girls ~

AAAARGH!

...I'VE TURNED INTO A WOMAN WITH HUGE BOOBS!!

I'VE ...!

AAAAAA

BOING BOING BOING

DUTCH! BENNY! REVYYY!!

HG

GAKK! YOU TOO?!

GCHAK

WHAT'S WRONG ROCK?

WHAT?

OH, HEY...

IF IT ISN'T THE HAND-SOME MR. BALALAIKA.

Uh, well, I don't quite.

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU OKAY?

YOU STILL HUNG-OVER?

Y-Y-Y-YOU... W-W-W-WHY...

HOW ?!

?

ZRK

WHAT'S UP?

WHAT'S GOT YOU SO EXCITED, ROCK?

WHAT'S WITH THAT?

DAAASH

NO OOO

OOO

OOO

STRANGE WOMAN...

WOOMP

SOME-BODY!

ANY-BODY!!

WHAT IS IT, ROCK?

MIS-MISS CHANG?!

TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!!

BOUNCE BOUNCE BOUNCE

HEY, ROCK. NICE TITS AS ALWAYS...

GIMME SOME SUGAR, BABY.

AIEE EEE

I THINK I'M GONNA LOSE MY MIND IF THIS GOES ON ANY-

HEY ROCK...

HOW YA DOIN' ROCK. WHASSUP?

I'M A GIRL!

I'M A BOY!

...

JEEZ, THAT'S CRAZY TALK, ROCK.

SEX LIFE

FINALLY SOMEONE WHO'S THE SEX THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE!!

OH THANK GOD! REVY, YOU'RE A GIRL!

I'M A MAN.

SEE?

ZIP

YAAAAAAHHH

&%♥$/♂♀

CLICK

KTNK

HMM!

YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS.

SLRP

YOUNG MISTRESS.

I BELIEVE I HEARD A WOMAN SHRIEKING.

NO PUNCH LINE HERE. MOVE ALONG.

ORIGINAL CONCEPT: MR. SAWARA HASE.

AFTERWORD

REI HIROE, JUNE 13TH, 2005

IT'S VOLUME 4 EVERYONE. IT SURE DID TAKE A WHILE TO GET THIS FAR. VOLUME 4 AND 5 ARE SHIFTING TOWARD A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT TRACK FROM BEFORE, BUT I HOPE ALL OF YOU WILL KEEP UP WITH ME. PLEASE. I'M BEGGIN' YOU.

MY DEEP THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

MY EDITOR, MR. WOO.

MY ASSISTANTS, B-RIVER AND ITAKO.

COOPERATION: DAN KANEMITSU FOR ENGLISH AND THE CHAPTER TITLES. TOSHIRO ISHIYAMA AND ITSUKI AKIBA FOR THE RUSSIAN AND MILITARY STUFF.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: RYOSUKE TAKAGI IN THE ARMS MAGAZINE EDITORIAL OFFICES FOR THE GUN PROP PRODUCTION.

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR READING MY WORK.
I'LL SEE YOU IN VOLUME 5.

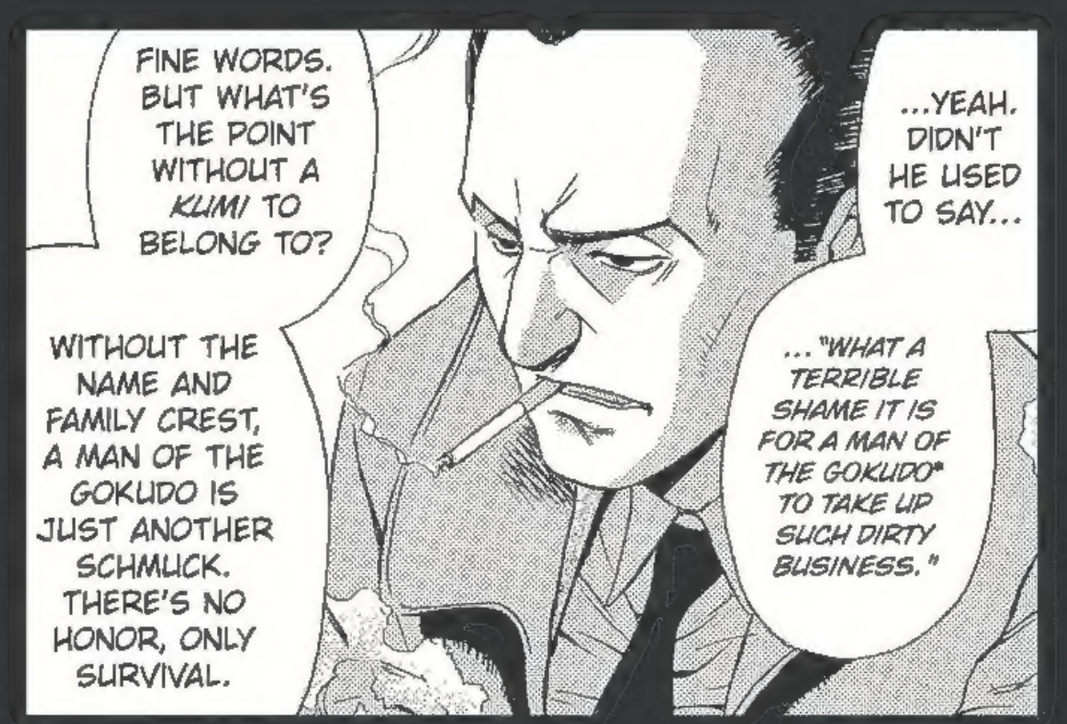
REI HIROE

Sorry for the long wait. Here's volume 4. The Chinese *cheongsam* dress on this volume's cover will be followed by a Japanese schoolgirl uniform in the next volume.

GIVE ME A RING ONCE YOU RECEIVE THE GOODS. I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER.
...ARE YOU KIDDING ME? NOW ABOUT THE MONEY...
...I DON'T TAKE AMERICAN EXPRESS.
TH
THIS'D BE MUCH EASIER IF I HAD AN ANTITANK ROCKET OR A MACHINE-GUN.
FOOL. EVEN CANNONS WILL RUN OUT OF BULLETS.
MP
WE WILL EMPLOY ANY AND ALL MEANS NECESSARY TO SECURE THE MAXIMUM PROFITS POSSIBLE.
THAT IS WHAT A MAFIA DOES.
FURTHERMORE, WE ARE TAKING ON MOST OF THE RISKS HERE.
THUS, THE DECISION-MAKING IS UP TO US, NOT YOU.
TAKAMACHI FESTIVAL SEASON IS SHORT. WE GOTTA MAKE THE BEST OF IT.
THIS SHOULD BE AN ENJOYABLE TIME FOR EVERYONE. SO PLEASE, LET BYGONES BE BYGONES. IF YOU GOTTA GRUDGE, DROP IT.
PLEASE, MISS...
I'M JUST ASKIN' YOU TO BE REASONABLE, 'AT'S ALL.
...THIS PLACE SMELLS...
...REAL FAMILIAR TO ME!
RIGHT NOW...
...I'M NOT EAGER TO...
ACTUALLY, I HAVEN'T GONE BACK TO MY PARENTS' PLACE YET.
...TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...

Rei Hiroe was born on December 5, 1972. After working at a game company, he debuted as a mangaka in 1993. He has been an active illustrator and dojinshi, and has created many titles released through the dojin community. He is best known for his works, ***Hisuikyoukitan*** and ***SHOOK UP!*** (both currently available in new formats published by Shogakukan) and his first artwork collection, ***Barrage***.

Editor's Note


FINE WORDS. BUT WHAT'S THE POINT WITHOUT A *KUMI* TO BELONG TO?
WITHOUT THE NAME AND FAMILY CREST, A MAN OF THE GOKUDO IS JUST ANOTHER SCHMUCK. THERE'S NO HONOR, ONLY SURVIVAL.
...YEAH. DIDN'T HE USED TO SAY...
..."WHAT A TERRIBLE SHAME IT IS FOR A MAN OF THE GOKUDO TO TAKE UP SUCH DIRTY BUSINESS."

The Yakuza

The yakuza are known for their strict hierarchical structure and elaborate rituals, the most infamous of which is *yubitsume* (cutting off a finger to apologize for a mistake), and for their full-body tattoos, often done with hand-made bamboo needles. In most major Japanese cities, the yakuza control or have a hand in all manner of street-level organized crime, particularly prostitution and protection rackets, though competition from foreign organized crime groups is increasing. At a higher level, the yakuza influence politicians and big business through extortion, blackmail and sophisticated financial scams.

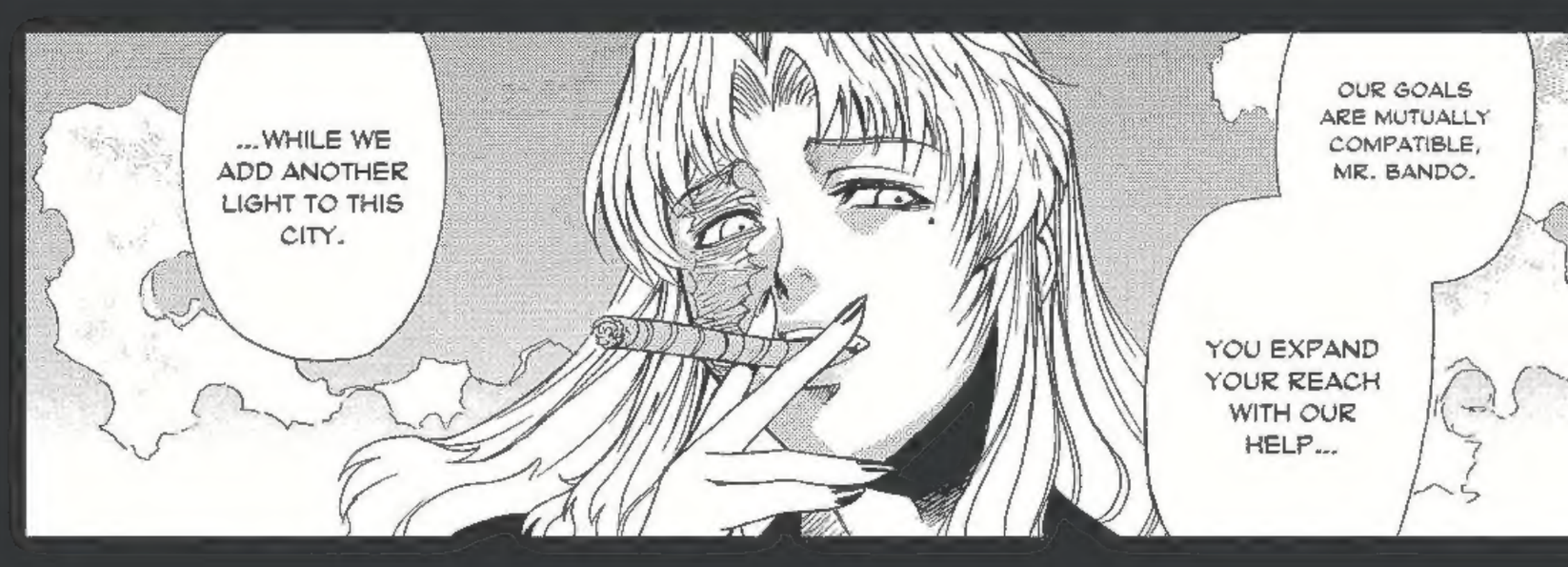
The Washimine-gumi's struggle for recognition is based around the *sakazuki* (sake sharing ritual) by which yakuza groups are recognized and oaths of loyalty established. After the death of Yukio's father, the Washimine-gumi was rendered essentially leaderless since the *kumicho* of the Kosa Kai did not subsequently conduct the *sakazuki* with anyone in the Washimine family. Bando's position as interim leader was never meant to be permanent and with Yukio the only eligible Washimine heir, it seems Yukio's terrible decision was the only way to save her family's honor.

...I, YUKIO WASHIMINE, THE DAUGHTER OF RYUZO WASHIMINE, WOULD HUMBLY SUCCEED TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THIS FAMILY.
THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MET FOLLOWING THE MURDER OF TSUGIO BANDO AND DECIDED THAT...
...IN ORDER TO MEET THE CHALLENGE POSED BY THE KOSA KAI, AND OUR OBLIGATION TO THE MEDIATION COUNCIL...

The Russian Mafia

After the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russian organized crime groups sprang up like wildfires in the aftermath of that nation's economic collapse. Traditional Russian gangsters, including those known as the *Vory v Zakone* (Thieves in Law) took up the role of leadership of the new Russian crime syndicates. The ranks of these new gangs then swelled with an influx of former intelligence agents (KGB and GRU) and veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Chechnya. The Russian Mob is actually composed of several loosely organized groups with a worldwide reach, particularly on the U.S. East Coast and in Europe.

Balalaika and her outfit serve the interests of Hotel Moscow and its leaders back in Moscow. Although nominally run by *Vor* Laptev, Balalaika quickly recognizes Hotel Moscow's Tokyo branch needs a new overseer and makes her move, on *Vor* Slevenin's orders. Assuming Hotel Moscow is run by the male-dominated *Vor v Zakone*, it is unlikely that Balalaika may ever receive the title *Vor*, but she hardly needs such an outdated honor—her skill and ruthless attitude are surely enough to take her to the top.



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PARENTAL ADVISORY
BLACK LAGOON is rated M for Mature and is recommended for mature readers. This volume contains graphic violence, strong language, nudity, adult situations, drinkin', smokin', ass-kickin', law breakin', gun-love, running with scissors and just about everything your mother ever told you not to do.

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